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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, SIXPENCE.

CRAVENS IN COUNCIL.

HAVE Great Britain and France undertaken a task beyond the limits of their strength? Are they in reality "tottering upon the pinnacle of their greatness"? Have they meddled with a business with which they had no real concern? And is it their duty—such being the case—to withdraw from it as fast as they can, and with the least possible loss of material wealth and moral dignity? Have they already suffered so much that to suffer still more would produce either the perilous exhaustion or the still more perilous exasperation of a people that have not the manly virtues of magnanimity and endurance? If either of these questions could be truly answered in the affirmative, the star of our national fortunes would indeed have culminated; our decline would be more rapid than our growth, and our shame would follow fast upon our glory. But to every one of these questions there is not an Englishman or Frenchman, competent to form a reasonable judgment, who would not answer with a proud and hopeful negative. And far beyond the limits of Great Britain and France;—in every civilised State of Europe and the world;—the same reply would be given by every dispassionate student of past or contemporary history, and by every one who had eyes to see and ears to hear the events that are taking place from day to day in the great drama of human life. Whatever the sordid and the craven-spirited may think, England and France do not arrogate to themselves too much in claiming to be at the head of European civilisation. They are, as they assert themselves to be, the two foremost nations of the world—first in wealth, in arts, and in arms, and in everything that exalts humanity. If other States and Empires compete with them, they compete at a respectful distance. Some of their competitors may ultimately reach a point of power and greatness to which no State in the Old World has attained in modern times; but as yet such nations

are in the immaturity of early youth, and must yield the place to their seniors, unless these should voluntarily abdicate their functions, or are in reality as decrepit and effete as they claim to be well-conditioned and vigorous. But if Great Britain and France, being in this enviable position, are desirous to maintain themselves in it, and if they do not care to receive at some future, and possibly at no very remote, time the law from barbarians, or from civilised States more virtuous and heroic than themselves, they must keep themselves up to the level of their destiny, whatever the sacrifices it may entail. An inevitable penalty attaches itself to all greatness, whether individual or national. No man and no Empire can continue to be great without continuing to act greatly. To remain great implies a continual struggle;—a struggle in the arts of peace, if circumstances allow of peace; but a struggle, also, in the battle-field, if honour, or duty, or the desire of self-preservation counsel and compel war as the sole alternative.

Yet, obvious as such considerations are, it would appear, if the current rumours of London and Paris are to be believed, that highly influential personages, both in and out of office, in this country and in France, are anxious to have the greatness without the responsibility; and, with this object, are desirous above all things of putting an end to the present war, by the concoction of any kind of compromise that it may please the Emperor of Russia in the infinitude of his condescension to accept. If these rumours be true it especially behoves the people of this country to be on the alert. The retirement of M. Drouyn de Lhuys from the Secretaryship of State for Foreign Affairs in France because he was the friend of an illusory peace, and of unsafe, if not dishonourable concessions to Russia, is a striking proof that Napoleon III. is no accomplice of such suicidal policy, and that he may be safely entrusted with the "mission" in which he has such indomitable confidence, and which he fulfils with such remarkable energy and sound judgment. But in England, where we

have no such ruler, and where opinion and power are subdivided among classes and parties, it is the duty of every honest man to watch over the honour of his country as jealously as if it were his own. England can afford to lose men and money; she can afford to make sacrifices far greater than ever she has yet made in any period of her history; she can afford to wage a conflict more desperate than that of the perilous years which closed their cycle in 1815;—but England cannot afford the slightest loss of her national honour and prestige; she cannot afford to let it be known to the four winds of heaven that any antagonist the world can produce is too mighty for her; she cannot afford to let it be seen that she has degenerated; and that, in the struggle provoked by the wanton aggression of a barbarian State, she had the will but not the power to vindicate the right and to punish the wrong. Diplomacy has exhausted concession. The refusal by Russia of the terms offered at Vienna ought to be a proof that further negotiation would be a sacrifice of dignity and honour, unless the demand for negotiation came from the Power whose ambition produced the conflict. In that case, negotiation and battle might go hand-in-hand, without intermission of effort; but in every other, a consent to further negotiation would be a confession of weakness and a moral defeat.

Let ministers and diplomats look well before them. We are not a nation of cravens. We are not demoralised by the spirit of commerce, or utterly degraded by the genius of "slop" and of "Devil's dust"; though it is but too palpably true that forty years of peace have subjected us too greatly to these influences. If further sacrifices are to be made, the nation will be ready to make them. All that it demands are honesty and decision in its rulers, and the prosecution of the war by the ablest heads and the strongest hands that the country can offer. It has no fear of the result. It is not discouraged; though it is doubtless exasperated by the mismanagement that has been disclosed, and by the



THE BALACLAVA RAILWAY.—THE BAZAAR AT KADIKOI.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

suicidal nepotism displayed in the appointment to high and responsible office by Whig and Tory Administrations. When it recalls the history of the war as far as it has yet gone, it finds nothing to look back upon but Victory—dearly bought, it is true, but still Victory—and Glory. It finds its enemy humbled, crippled, and impoverished; it finds the sympathy and sentiment of all civilised nations upon its side; it finds itself in close and enthusiastic alliance with the only other nation in the world that can claim to be as great and as civilised as itself—and whose alliance is of itself worth a thousand times all that the war has yet, or is ever likely to cost us; it finds that it has, *ad interim*, erased its enemy from the list of Maritime Powers—that it has beaten the Russian armies in every encounter which they have dared to accept; that it has invaded and kept possession of the Russian territory; and that it is gradually approaching nearer and nearer to the triumphant completion of the difficult, but not impossible, achievement—the capture and destruction of one of the strongest fortresses in the world, with the existence of which all future peace is illusory and uncertain. And all this, and much more, the two Allies, without the overt aid of hesitating Austria, have been able to effect; and without putting forth a hundredth part of their strength. And is this the time to talk of peace on any terms but those of the surrender of the enemy? If there are any friends of such a peace in the Government of this country, they are traitors to the national cause. Let them come out of the Camp and the Council-chamber. The public heart is sound in this business. It does not complain of the war, but applauds it. What it complains of is mismanagement. If to mismanagement there be added treachery, there will be many things besides the conduct of the war which will come under revision on that fearful day of reckoning which is certain to come, and equally certain to be unsparing.

THE BALACLAVA AND SEBASTOPOL RAILWAY.

The following excellent *résumé* of the operations of the Railway and description of the country are taken from a report addressed to Messrs. Peto and Brassey by their chief engineer. It may not be out of place here to state that Lord Raglan has been so pleased with the energy and zeal of Mr. Beatty that he directed Mr. Romaine, who is acting (honorably) as secretary to the Railway Board, to write that gentleman a letter, expressing his Lordship's high sense of his services:

What strikes a new comer most on his arrival here is the immense extent of country covered by the Allied forces. From Balaclava to the extreme right is about nine miles inside the intrenchments, and the length of defence and attacking works is over sixteen miles; so that, instead of being a siege concentrated against a certain point, it is a series of detached batteries against batteries. I mention this to show that a few miles of rails are soon swallowed up in attempting to give railway accommodation to the army.

The whole is composed of lime and sandstone, covered, except where the limestone crops out, with a light, rich, luxuriant soil, varying from twelve to eighteen inches deep, over the surface, which works into a heavy and tenacious mud after rain. The whole face of the country changes after twelve hours' rain from a good hard surface to worse than a newly-ploughed field.

The line commences from both sides of the harbour, and proceeds direct up the valley to Kadikoi, where it turns sharp to the west, round the foot of the hill on which is placed the Sailors' or 4-gun Battery, and through the French Camp, thence along the side of the hill to the Flagstaff at top of the plateau, and about half a mile from headquarters. The line then diverges to the north, and proceeds direct to the Woronzow road; this is about seven miles from Balaclava. There is also a branch about one mile long to accommodate the Third and Fourth Divisions and left siege-train. Before the navvies arrived Lord Raglan placed at my disposal 200 soldiers of the 39th Regiment, who were employed in collecting stones from the several old buildings and walls between Balaclava and Kadikoi; these were placed on the site of the Railway, to form a base for the rails; and very well they have acted. After twenty-four hours of the heaviest rain I ever saw, the portion of the line on which these stones were placed, with a sprinkling of ballast over them, remained uninjured; whereas the whole surface of the Camp was next door to impassable. We have also been so far fortunate as to find a large bed of tolerable ballast close to the town, which has been of great service in making the road travellable over the soft valley as far as Kadikoi and elsewhere, where we had not sufficient stones to form a base.

Beyond Kadikoi there is no ballast, except what comes out of the cuttings, which are in sandstone rock, soft at top, but about six feet down it becomes very hard and compact. Between the French Camp and the Flagstaff there are a few small excavations, unavoidable from the nature of the ground, and which, although they required some little time to get out, were available and necessary for ballast, as the horses cannot travel on the surface for any length of time, the soil working into a tenacious and deep mud.

From the Flagstaff to the Woronzow road the line follows the surface for upwards of a mile. There are a few small cuttings (sandstone) necessary, from the nature of the ground in this portion; but they will be all out and ready for laying the road through as soon as the materials are advanced that far. The branch to siege train will also be chiefly on the surface.

As regards the labour furnished by the army, I mentioned that 150 men of the 39th Regiment (afterwards increased to 200) had been placed at my disposal for a short time (from the 27th of January to the 6th of February); they were of the greatest assistance, as far as they went, in forming the line, and were becoming very fair navvies, but, unfortunately were removed before they had time to be of much real benefit to us. I took great interest in these men; the officers seemed to take a pride in their work, and I was almost in despair when they were taken away.

Two hundred Croatians were given me on the 1st of February; they were at first literally useless, except as beasts of burden, and were only employed in carrying stones for the road. The want of interpreters who could speak English was also a great loss to us at first; however, by dint of perseverance, we have at last broken about thirty of them to handle the spade and shovel and wheel a barrow. The remainder have been and are still engaged unloading the ships, for which they are extremely well qualified.

With the exception of these 200 Croats and 200 sailors lent by Captain Lushington for about ten days, we have had no assistance in labour from the army; indeed, the Quartermaster-General told me from the first that he could not spare any soldiers, and I do not believe he could. The amount of fatigue duty and work in the trenches had fully occupied every available man in the army; and I feel quite certain that General Airey, from whom I have lately received the greatest kindness, would have willingly afforded me military aid if he could; but the truth was, until we began to convey goods by rail, and relieve the army of their daily trudge into Balaclava, the trenches were not half manned. From Balaclava to the summit the line has been completed some time; now it is comparatively down hill, and the labour of transport is reduced to a mere nothing. To give one instance—six horses can now take thirty 13-inch shells from our dépôt at head-quarters to the advanced trenches in one day; before it was as much as ever they could manage, when the weather was fine, to take six 13-inch shells from Balaclava to the siege train.

The railway was commenced on the 8th of February by the navvies; it conveyed commissariat stores to Kadikoi on the 23rd; and on the 26th of March it conveyed shot and shell to the summit at head-quarters, four miles and a half from Balaclava, which, with the Diamond Wharf branch and the double line from Balaclava to Kadikoi, makes upwards of seven miles of rail laid down in less than seven weeks; and now I approach the most important question of the whole—What has the railway done, and what is it calculated to do?

First, I will give a list of the stores to be sent up to the front daily, as furnished by the Commissariat officer, Mr. Bailey. This is exclusive of the Highland Brigade or cavalry, who have long since made use of the line for getting up their stores.

Mem.—Daily supply of provisions for the front:—

Biscuit, 300 bags, 112 lb. each	lbs. 33,600
Salt meat, 100 casks, 450 lb. each	45,000
Groceries and extras—say	30,000
Corn—say 500 bags, 150 lb. each	75,000
Hay, 120 bales, 150 lb. each	18,000
Fuel—wood and charcoal—say	45,000
Total	246,600

Say 112 tons daily.

Up to last night the railway has taken up, as nearly as can be, 1000 tons of shell and shot, 300 tons of small-arms, 3,600 tons of Commissariat stores (fuel and forage), besides upwards of 1000 tons of miscellaneous—viz., guns, platforms, huts, Quartermaster-General's stores, &c.

The biscuit, salt meat, and groceries Commissary-General Filder has not made any arrangements about issuing at head-quarters as yet. I

have volunteered, time after time, to take everything up for the Commissariat, and at one time it was settled everything should go by rail, but this was countermanded. The Commissariat have now at their disposal every day thirty waggons or more, and these might be filled on the average twice a day, sufficient to take up everything in the shape of stores; but the Commissariat men will not work before eight in the morning nor after half-past five in the evening, and the Commissary-General does not seem disposed to take any steps, by inducing them to work later in the evening or earlier in the morning, to make any further use of the railway—in fact, he will not put himself out of the way one step to forward the comfort of the army, as far as the railway is concerned. Lord Raglan is, I believe, quite aware of this, and has strongly urged him to the point, but he is immovable; so that, as regards the food of the men, unless the divisions send down men, and draw their own rations at Balaclava, and get them up by rail on their own account, the Commissary-General will not assist them.

In addition to the amount stated above, we have taken up all the railway materials for extending the line, forage, Commissariat huts for our own people, fuel for engine, &c., and this, until the arrival of the 65 horses per the *City of Norwich*, was all done by 35 of our own horses and 20 Commissariat mules; so that if the success of the railway has not come up to your expectations at home, it is not owing to any want of labour or energy on the part of the expedition; but, in addition to what has been done in reality, it has had an inconceivably good moral effect on the army. It has shown them that everything that can possibly be done to assist them and lighten their labour will be done. It has enabled the siege to open again by the immense quantity of shot and ammunition taken up. It has relieved the artillery horses of the killing journey up hill from Balaclava to the Camp, and enabled them to pick up their condition, which was deplorable in the extreme. It has—I say it without hesitation—been the means of clearing Balaclava of the wretched and filthy Turks who possessed the place and made it a perfect pesthouse, and, by the example afforded by the navvies, has shown the army how to work; and I am convinced that 50 soldiers will do more than double the number would two months ago.

Now, as to what it is likely to do:—It will show the army that there are other and better means of transport than ordinary roads; that, without infringing on the prerogative of military men, they may yet derive some assistance from the skill and science of civilians; that a railway—one of the most improved means of transport—can be laid over an ordinary country as easily and quickly as a common road; that an immense amount of tonnage can be removed in one-fifth of the time required on common roads.

I am happy to say that the Royal Engineers are very friendly. I have been of some assistance to them in furnishing them with timber for their gun platforms and other purposes, and they reciprocate this accommodation by giving me every information and assistance they can. Indeed, I may say that every department works cordially with us.

Colonel M'Murdo is organising the transport service into an efficient corps, and I find him a good and energetic man of business.

Now, with regard to the men to be sent home. It will require nearly all the navvies to work the line. There must be a breakman to each wagon; then we must furnish drivers for the mules supplied by the Land Transport Corps; the remainder will be barely sufficient to maintain the road—in fact, I do not think that a single good navy can be sent home. The carpenters and smiths are fully occupied, and had I double the number they would not meet the requirements of the army and the expedition. The only men I can dispense with for some time are the masons; a few of the miners might also go home; but they are a very useful class of men out here, where the whole country is rock, and the majority of them can always be advantageously employed in quarrying stone to the limekilns. Before the *Prince of Wales* leaves with Capt. Raymond matters may take a different turn; but at present I certainly do not see that we can spare many men without seriously crippling the usefulness of the expedition. Captain Raymond has received positive order from Captain Andrews to send home all the ships, except the *Levant* and *Von Humboldt*. These are to remain; the latter is a very handy ship for our purposes, and may yet be exceedingly useful.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have just learnt that Commissary General Filder has received a positive order to establish an issue department at head-quarters, and we take up stores to-morrow.

THE ENGLISH BURYING-GROUND IN THE CRIMEA.—Colonel Egerton, Captain Lemprière, and four soldiers of the 77th Regiment, all of whom were killed in the first attack on the rifle-pits, were interred a little after 10 a.m. to-day. Lord Raglan, and a very numerous assemblage of Staff and other officers, attended the funeral. They were buried on a gentle declivity, where the hill in front of the light division slopes down towards the Left Ravine. The Woronzow road to Sebastopol skirts the burying-place, and a neatly-cut verstone marks the distance—five versts—from the city. The picket-house, which has been so often spoken of, is a little way on in front. Formerly the burials from this part of the Camp took place in the low ground of the ravine itself, but many objections to this site were discovered, and the present cemetery was selected. The ground is not enclosed, but already a few unpretending headstones tell the names of some of the English soldiers whose remains lie beneath. There are nearly a hundred graves here. Nothing can exceed in beauty the magnificent prospect which opens in the view at this point. It is here that, on ascending the hill from the plateau, a traveller approaching by the high road would first perceive the city and roadstead of Sebastopol. They lie stretched at the feet of the spectator, like a map spread out before him, while the hills on the north side and a vast expanse of ocean complete the picture. The Chersonese Cape and its lighthouse, the long line of ships off the coast, from the vessels guarding Kars to the sentry ships on watch before the mouth of the great harbour, the works of the French and those of our left attack are all visible at a glance. When there were vineyards and groves in the valleys, and flocks and herds grazing on the hills, and ships gliding in and out of the roadstead, the prospect must have been indeed charming—one of the finest in the world. Now, the serried lines dividing the besiegers and besieged—the barriers closing the harbour—the lifeless ships, prisoners in their own port—the ground furrowed by trenches in which the plough has had no part—the scattered encampments, French, English, and Russian—the wreaths of smoke from many batteries, and the booming of the guns—all these awake far different emotions than would have been evoked by the more peaceful prospect of former days. Agriculture and the arts of peace have fled, and yielded place to rough war. And here was some of war's handiwork. Never were nobler hearts, never worthier soldiers, each in his several sphere of duty, than those who had been suddenly struck down in the midst of life and energy, and who are now finding their last resting-place on this spot. War engenders strange feelings, and works wonderful changes in men's natures: day after day the sudden transition from life to death is seen, until at last the sight fails to produce even a passing agitation in the spirit of the beholder; but there were few, among the many who testified by their presence to the worth of the dead, who were not pierced with deep emotion as they heard the solemn words of the sacred service—"dust to dust"—and who saw the grave cover all that remained of the gallant Colonel Egerton and the brave soldiers by his side.—*Letter from the Camp, April 24.*

TRIAL AND SENTENCE OF PIANORI.—The trial of Pianori, the regicide, took place on Monday. The court was very full. The most crowded part was the space behind the bench, where official personages and the personal friends of the judges mustered in such numbers that there was scarcely standing room. A remarkable novelty in the physiognomy of the court was the absence of ladies. The President of the present assizes, M. Partarieau Lafosse, with whom it rests to grant tickets of admission, dislikes to see a court of justice on a great and solemn occasion presenting the appearance of the opera on a benefit night; and, to the bitter disappointment of many hundred fair applicants, he resolved to have no women in court. The trial was nearly devoid of incident. The material facts, as stated in the *acte d'accusation*, were conclusively proved. The prisoner did not attempt to deny them. Although it was quite clear that he conceals the whole truth regarding his motives and his previous life, he gave no trouble to his judges regarding the main facts. He admitted he fired his double-barrelled pistol at the Emperor. He could not be sure whether he fired the second barrel, or whether it went off by itself. But he readily admitted that he had fired once. He denied that when he was seized another pistol was found in his hand. Both the others were, he said, in his pockets. Two witnesses, however, swore positively that he had drawn the pistol, and was about to fire a third shot, when he was captured. The most important fact that came out at the trial, beyond what is stated in the indictment, was that Pianori is a notorious assassin who has escaped from the galleys. The President read from the bench two telegraphic despatches from the French Chargé d'Affaires at Rome, the first of which is as follows:—"Pianori Sennecio, alias Brizzi Ghellino, aged thirty-two years, has two children. He fled after a political assassination in Servia, in 1852. He took refuge in Genoa. He has often returned to this country to commit fresh crimes." The second despatch is as follows:—"Rome, May 5, 1855. Positive information. Pianori was sentenced to twelve years in the galleys for murder. He is accused as the author of two incendiary fires in 1849." The prisoner positively denied both these statements; and it must be admitted, as his counsel observed, that they are far from being positive proof that he is the individual who was found guilty of murder in Italy. He admitted, however, after some hesitation, that people did sometimes call him Brizzi Ghellino, and that he had been in prison for six months, but he pretended that he did not know what for. With regard to his motives, he repeated what he had said before the Judge of Instruction, that the Emperor, by the expedition to Rome, had ruined him and his family. The jury retired for ten minutes, and returned a verdict of Guilty. The Court sentenced the prisoner to die the death of a paricide. Pianori retired with the gendarmes without betraying the slightest trepidation. A "paricide" is led to the guillotine barefooted, in a black veil, and his right hand is cut off previous to his execution.

The French Minister of Commerce and Public Works has appointed a commission, composed of twenty-four members, presided over by him, and in his absence by Baron C. Dupin, charged to draw out a programme of questions to be submitted to the international Statistical Congress, which is to assemble in Paris this summer.

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THE PARIS UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

PARIS, May 9.

SINCE I last wrote to you, the unexpected postponement of the Exhibition has astonished all people connected with it. I was in the Palais de l'Industrie in the afternoon of the 27th ult.; and, although the postponement had been that day determined upon, and the decree signed by the Emperor, nobody had any idea that it was even contemplated. I had seen the Secretary to the Imperial Commission, who talked of the opening for the 1st of May, and of the necessity of closing on the morrow for "five or six days." On the morning of the 28th the vigour of the exhibitors had sensibly slackened. The incitement to extraordinary labours, to overwork, &c., was gone. But, on the following Monday everybody appeared to have arrived at the conclusion that it would be no easy matter to finish, even by the 15th, and had set again to work vigorously. The ten days which have elapsed since this time have sufficed to produce great changes; and, with a moderate exercise of the imaginative faculties, the explorer may now realise an idea of the effect that is to burst upon Paris (or rather that section of Paris to which 50 francs are a trifle) next Tuesday. For I am positively assured that, as the tumbler says to his ring of spectators, "this time there will be no mistake." The Imperial Commissioners have even asked the English Commissioners to leave part of their gallery space unoccupied till the 16th inst., that 300 musicians may occupy it on the 15th. An address is to be read to the Emperor by Prince Napoleon, some music is to be heard, and the Paris Universal Exhibition is to be declared thereupon—opened! This is the description of the ceremony I have heard from the English authorities here, and I have every reason to believe that it is correct, up to the present time. But between this date and the 15th, the order may be changed. It may even be thought advisable to imitate the procession down the Nave, as formed in 1851 in the Hyde-park Building. I expect that the ceremony will be short, for the English authorities, including Mr. Henry Cole, Dr. Playfair, Mr. Redgrave, &c., were presented to the Emperor on Sunday last, in company with a group of other foreign Exhibition Commissioners.

The principal objects destined for the Nave are already placed, or they are in course of settlement. Our Astronomer Royal's circle and the great naval trophy are advanced. Some groups of French sculpture, and some sculptured altars, are also arranged in the eastern half of the Nave, together with two lighthouse lanterns. The colossal eagle which I noticed four or five weeks ago in the Sculpture-room of the Fine Art Building is in this Nave; also a group, by Cain, representing an eagle and a vulture devouring the remains of a crocodile; and a falling angel—a daring conception—finely executed by Ferrat.

In the western half of the Nave I have already noticed some beautiful church ornaments, carved in wood, from Belgium; a large model of a steam-vessel; some German plastic ornaments for churches; some ceramic manufactures, effectively grouped; a splendid bookcase from Bordeaux; and the gorgeous stalls, supported by claret velvet pillars, relieved by plastic figures lightly gilt, of the Zollverein. The Bordeaux bookcase is, perhaps, the finest piece of furniture yet in the Building. In front of it, in full relief, are four boldly-designed figures representing the four quarters of the world; and at one side there is a veiled figure exquisitely carved. The Germans have also displayed some china chandeliers, that look like beautiful pendent flowers. In the English Gallery space Dr. Royal and Mr. Digby Wyatt are pushing forward the arrangement of the Indian collection. The gay Eastern tent is up; and the Bazaar—a faithful copy of Indian architecture—is in an advanced state. The Empress spent some time in this department last Saturday, and is said to have been much amused with the wonderful collection of Indian products which the Hon. East India Company have gathered from the provinces of our Eastern empire. The English photographs are nearly all arranged, and they will do infinite credit to the professors who have contributed. Mr. Thurston Thompson's reproductions of Raphael's drawings from the Royal collection at Windsor are perhaps the most remarkable, the most dangerous copies of priceless treasures that have yet been produced by means of the photographic process. Hercabots Hanhart, and Baxter, and others, have already arranged their coloured engravings and chromo-lithographs. Mr. Digby Wyatt has also covered his allotted space with a variety of designs contributed by him to various periodicals.

In the north-eastern part of the Building, on the ground floor, the French have considerable space devoted to plastic ornamentation. They are rapidly filling it. Already I have remarked some fine figures in carton-pierre. Their gallery space is almost exclusively occupied with the Lyons cases; the western corner being devoted to an interesting collection of raw silks, cocoons, &c. At this end of the gallery the Dutch space begins: at present furniture appears to be the principal item in the contribution of our phlegmatic friends. The Zollverein Gallery stalls are mostly finished. Some are even laid out, and covered carefully up till the opening. The Belgian section of the galleries is also in a very advanced state. Here are some excellent photographs from Brussels; some lace from the same city; and not far off stands a Berlin-wool trophy of impressive height.

The American space, both on the ground floor and in the gallery, is wholly unoccupied, yet I hear there are eight American Commissioners to look after one hundred exhibitors—faelous gentlemen reverse these figures.

The Machinery Gallery is still in a backward state; and it is not pretended that it will be ready for public inspection before the 1st of June. I doubt whether even on that day the machinery will be in motion. The flooring has been so terribly damaged by the heavy packages that it is almost impossible to walk upon it. The floor of the Palace is also in a terribly broken state.

The Connecting Gallery and the Gallery around the old Panorama are being rapidly completed; and I should not be surprised to hear that the refreshment-stalls are to be loaded with babas and groseille on the 15th.

The pictures are all in position. It would be useless to anticipate the verdicts that are to be solemnly passed on the relative merits of the modern European schools; but I may inform your readers that our English contributions have fairly astonished our neighbours. They are surprised to find that we really do know a little about painting in England, and that our landscapes generally are not fogs. I hear that Mulready hits the taste of the Parisian amateurs most completely. Many people are curious to hear what they will have to say about Millais' "Ophelia," and the pre-Raphaelite school generally. I fear they will lustily condemn all that is not shaped in the school of David—all that is not based upon rules painted in black letter! Few will be familiar with the subjects treated. But we have not long to wait. In a few days the Parisian critics will be busy with the art of all nations. May our artists pass lightly under their pens!

THE RIFLE-P

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.

PUBLIC MEETING IN THE CITY.

A meeting of the merchants and traders of the metropolis was held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, on Saturday last, for the purpose of organising an association to promote a thorough reform in the various departments of the State. One o'clock was the hour appointed for commencing the proceedings; but shortly after twelve the large room—estimated as capable of containing 1500 persons—was filled to overflowing, and so great was the anxiety manifested to be present that many hundred eager applicants for admittance, including several members of Parliament, could not be accommodated. In this state of things the conductors of the movement, with great promptitude and tact, extemporised arrangements for the simultaneous holding elsewhere of a supplemental meeting on the same subject, and the use of the Guild-hall having been readily granted by the Lord Mayor for that object, a medium was supplied for the expression of a large portion of the popular feeling which must otherwise have been stifled. On and about the platform at the London Tavern were Messrs. J. I. Travers, J. D. Powles, S. Morley, J. P. Gassiot, W. Tite, W. J. Hall, James Hutchinson, W. S. Lindsay, M.P.; Norman Wilkinson, F. Bennoch, Samuel Baker, George Bishop, jun.; Johnstone Neale, Captain Scobell, M.P.; Mr. Otway, M.P.; Colonel Reed, M.P.; Mr. F. French, M.P.; Mr. Maguire, M.P.; Mr. Murrough, M.P.; Mr. Swift, M.P.; Mr. Duffy, M.P.; Mr. Oliveira, M.P., &c.

Shortly before one o'clock, on the motion of Mr. J. I. Travers, Mr. Samuel Morley was voted to the chair. In introducing the business, he said, he had come there because he honestly feared that we were drifting into that state which, if unchecked, must land us in revolution, and because, in all seriousness, he had no faith in order or peace which was not founded on contentment; and he for one was not disposed to say "Peace, peace," when he felt that there ought to be no peace. An attempt had been made to show that this movement was a mere trading affair; but they would show that it was something more serious. They wished to see the public business of the country conducted in an efficient manner. They had been accused of a wish to attack the aristocracy; but there need be no alarm on that head in a country like England, where the great mass of the people are so much attached to the aristocracy. The meeting had not been called to discuss the war, upon the wisdom or justice of which he would not pronounce. Their sole object was to obtain a reform of the present system of Government.

Mr. J. I. Travers proposed the first resolution:—

That the disasters to which the country has been subjected in the conduct of the present war are attributable to the inefficient and practically-irresponsible management of the various departments of the State, and urgently demand a thorough change in the administrative system.

He believed that the country, from one end of it to the other, would endorse the moderate expression of opinion embodied in this resolution. They did not require to look for evidence of the inefficiency and irresponsibility of the Government from without. There was not a living statesman who had not repeatedly in his speeches acknowledged the existence of those evils. It had been asserted that the promoters of that meeting were making an attempt at revolution; but the person who seriously brought such an accusation against merchants and traders, whose property was like sheep scattered on the hill side, and dependent for its safety on the maintenance of law and order, must be no less than a perfect madman. (Cheers.) Then, again, it was said, their design was to subvert the existing Government. Their object, however, was too great for them to condescend to attack any particular Government or individual in the pursuit of it. They did not blame individuals for the inherent vices of the system; but, on the contrary, would admit that many of those on whom public odium had been cast most unmeasuredly had had the best intentions, and had only failed from want of power or from the impossibility of adapting the system to the exigencies of the moment. The real fault of the present system attached to the people themselves, who tolerated its continuance. Facts convinced the advocates of that movement that, in every constituency of the country, there was a body of voters on the register who always remained unpolled, and who had it in their power, if they chose to exert themselves at the elections, to make even the present representation of the people available for immediate purposes (Hear, hear); and it was therefore the duty of the city of London, as the centre and metropolis of the country's activity and intelligence, to endeavour to rouse the middle classes to a due sense of their responsibilities and their danger at the present crisis.

Mr. J. P. Gassiot seconded the resolution; and entered into a long account of an offer which had been made to our Government of 10,000 Spanish guerrillas—armed, accoutred, and officered—who might have been of great service in the Crimea, and of the way in which the offer was received.

Mr. J. D. Powles had great satisfaction in supporting the resolution. The country at the present moment felt itself humiliated at home and depreciated abroad—not because its resources were impaired, or that there was any want of that patriotism which had always been a distinguished element in the British character, but because its resources had been squandered, and its affairs grievously mismanaged in every direction. They must apply a remedy, constitutional and peaceable, but effective, to the present state of things. They attacked no body of men and no particular Government, but an imperfect, almost a rotten system (Hear, hear). The middle classes knew something of the manner in which business ought to be conducted; and, although they did not pretend to be great diplomats, or to understand all parts of the machinery of the State, they could judge of such matters as the hire of transports, the supply of stores, the regularity with which contracts were performed, and they could see that there was a lamentable want of foresight in quarters where it ought not to exist.

Mr. W. S. Lindsay, M.P., moved the following resolution:—

That the true remedy for the system of maladministration which has caused so lamentable a sacrifice of labour, money, and human life, is to be sought in the introduction of enlarged experience and practical ability into the service of the State; that the exclusion from office of those who possess in a high degree the practical qualities necessary for the direction of affairs in a great commercial country is a reflection upon its intelligence and a betrayal of its interests; that, while we disclaim every desire of excluding the aristocratic classes from participation in the councils of the Crown, we feel it our duty to protest against the pretensions of any section of the community to monopolise the functions of administration.

After stating that he should have preferred remaining a silent looker-on, the honourable gentleman went on to say that this was no party movement, as they would see from the fact that Mr. Powles and himself were speaking from the same platform; it was a movement in which both Conservatives and Liberals joined (Hear, hear). All parties felt the necessity of a change; they all felt that they must have a thorough administrative reform—that they must see whether the Government of this country could not be made to keep pace with the progress of the people governed. Men of business thought it strange that, while they were able to span England with gigantic undertakings, to construct railways, to tunnel through mountains, to send their ships to every part of the world, the harbingers of peace, civilisation, and Christianity, while they had made England what she was (for to whom did England owe her greatness but to her merchants and her people?)—while they had raised her to the high position she justly held among other nations, those who pretended to govern them were not able to manage the affairs of the country. It was said that this movement was not constitutional. It was constitutional; and it was those men who held office under the Crown and abused their sacred trust by giving appointments to particular individuals simply because they were their own relations, who were really acting unconstitutionally (Hear, hear). The merchants and traders of the city of London had no desire or intention to assail the Constitution—they had too much at stake for that. They deeply respected the Constitution and they ardently loved their gracious Sovereign, who was the embodiment of every grace and the pattern of every virtue (cheers); but they were determined to make the Ministers adhere to the Constitution and maintain the dignity and honour of these realms (Hear, hear). A circumstance occurred to him six months ago, which he had never mentioned before but he would do so now, because he felt it to be a duty. He would have had nothing personally to gain by the transfer of his services from Austin-friars to Whitehall or Downing-street, and nothing would ever induce him to accept office but the feeling that he might be of service to his country. Well, six months ago he saw Sir J. Graham, and observed to him that those connected with our sea transport appeared to have no books, no order, and no system—they did not seem to know what they were about, and could not tell how they were loading goods, or where they were carrying them to. "Now," he continued, addressing the right hon. Baronet, "I don't wish my name to appear at all in the matter; but will you just allow me to leave Austin-friars and come to the Admiralty for a week; and if you let me have the aid of some good men in that department, I will see whether I cannot give you a thorough set of books to start with (cheers). Allow me," he still went on, "to go down to Deptford for you, and see what books you have got there, and I shall there organise some system, because it is not only money that is concerned; but, unless you have a proper machinery in working order, the war cannot be conducted as it ought to be. Unless our men are fed, clothed, and sheltered, we cannot expect them to fight. Any suggestions that I may make, you, Sir James, may bring out as your own in Parliament, for I have no desire to be known in connection with them." Well, in answer to all this, Sir James Graham thanked him very kindly for his offer, and heartily shook hands with him; but he (Mr. Lindsay) must say that he had never heard anything more about the subject from that day to this (Hear). No doubt, after he withdrew, the right hon. Baronet went and consulted the Right Hon. Lord Redditch or the Hon. Mr. Peter Dick on the matter, and they advised him that it would never do to take the opinion of a mere City man on such a question (cheers). Now, without any great egotism, he (Mr. Lindsay) had no hesitation in saying that he would in a week have set on foot such a method and system as would have saved the country at least one out of the two millions that had been thrown away in sheer waste on the trans-

port service (Hear, hear). It had been said at the West-end that that meeting would be a mere flash in the pan, ending in nothing. Now, he would tell these good people—and it would go forth to them very speedily—that it would be no such thing as a simple flash in the pan—that such business men as their excellent chairman and Mr. Travers, and many others of their class then present, would not have left their desks for the pleasure of indulging in mere vain and idle talk. They would go about this matter like men of business, which they were, and not pause or rest until they had carried out with success what they deemed to be necessary (Hear, hear). At that meeting a committee would be formed, which would meet *instanter*, and whose business it would be to transmit the resolutions now to be adopted to every borough in the kingdom returning a member to Parliament. Each member of the Committee had some correspondent or other—some man of substance, with a stake in the country, and having, sometimes, consequently to lose—in every such borough; and these parties, if they approved the resolutions, would be invited to call public meetings in their respective towns to discuss them; and then, at those meetings, sub-committees, acting in concert with the central body, could be formed, so that the originators of this movement would speedily have their representatives in every Parliamentary borough in the kingdom.

This resolution (which was seconded by Mr. Bennoch, and supported by Mr. Johnstone Neale) was carried unanimously.

Mr. W. Tite moved the third and last resolution:—

That an association be now formed to promote, by all constitutional means, the attainment of administrative reform. That the association be called the Administrative Reform Association, and that the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number, be appointed the committee, to collect funds, to prepare an address to the constituencies of the United Kingdom, and generally to carry out the objects of the association:—Messrs. F. Bennoch, G. Bishop, jun., R. Crawford, J. B. Gassiot, J. Hutchinson, W. J. Hall, M. McGregor Laird, S. Laing, W. S. Lindsay, W. T. McCullough, S. Morley, R. B. Moore, H. L. Morgan, W. L. Ogilvy, J. D. Powles, J. I. Travers, N. Wilkinson, J. G. Frith, S. Amory W. Lister, W. Tite, D. Nicoll, J. Collett, S. Baker, S. Smith, jun., and B. Oliveira.

The resolution was also carried *nem. con.* The Chairman announced, as a proof of the earnest and sincere character of the movement that twenty-five gentlemen in the room had already put down their names for a subscription of £100 each.

ST. PANCRAS.—At a special meeting of the ratepayers, convened by the Representative Vestry, held in the Court-house, King's-road, Camden-town, on Monday (Mr. Churchwarden Farmer in the chair), it was resolved:—"That this meeting, cordially approving of the great and important movement commenced in the City of London on Saturday last, in reference to Administrative Reform, feels it desirable that an opportunity should be afforded to every constituency in the kingdom to express its opinion upon that momentous question at the present crisis, and therefore respectfully requests the vestry of St. Pancras to grant the use of the Vestry-hall for the purpose of holding a borough meeting on Monday evening, the 21st of May inst., and that the members for the borough be invited to attend."

BIRMINGHAM.—A requisition to the Mayor of Birmingham is in course of signature, requesting his worship to call a town's meeting, for the purpose of considering the propriety of co-operating with the metropolitan movement in furtherance of administrative reform. Already the requisition is numerously and respectably signed.

MANCHESTER.—An early public meeting is to be called at Manchester on this subject.

NORWICH.—A public meeting is to be held in Norwich on an early day, with a view to arrangements for co-operating with the London Administrative Reform Association.

LIVERPOOL.—An initiatory meeting of the reformers of this town was held at the Clarendon-rooms on Saturday last, to take into consideration the advisability of petitioning Parliament in aid of administrative reform. The meeting was adjourned until Wednesday. It is said that the Conservatives of the town are preparing a requisition to the Mayor, praying him to call a public meeting on the same subject.

DEFEAT OF THE PRO-RUSSIAN PARTY AT LEEDS.—On Monday evening last Mr. George Thompson attended a large meeting at Leeds, for the purpose of lecturing upon the present war. In a speech of two hours long he argued that the people of England are profoundly ignorant of the cause and origin of the present war; that the war really originated with France, in the demands made by that Power in respect to the Holy Places; that Turkey had throughout acted with duplicity, fraud, and treachery; that Russia had never demanded anything more than that Power was justly entitled to by treaties; that the conduct of Russia had been moderate in the extreme; that the Blue-books proved Russia to be right, and Turkey wrong; that from the first English and French diplomats had protested against the conduct of Turkey, and praised that of Russia; and that England and France had not the shadow of pretence for declaring war against Russia. Several speakers replied to the arguments of the lecturer, and explained the aggressive and despotic policy of Russia, whose territorial aggrandisement it was essential to the freedom of Western Europe to arrest. Mr. Carter, at the close of his speech, proposed the following resolution:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the war with Russia is a just and necessary war, and ought to be prosecuted with the greatest vigour until a material guarantee against future aggression on the part of Russia is secured." To this resolution Mr. Thompson proposed the following amendment:—"That this meeting, heartily deplored the evils of war, and especially the calamitous loss of life which has attended the prosecution of the present war, would earnestly urge on Government the duty of employing their utmost efforts to promote the conclusion of an honourable and permanent peace." After a discussion of four hours, and at half-past eleven o'clock at night, the original motion for a vigorous prosecution of the war was carried by a decisive majority.

DARING ATTACK BY ROBBERS IN OPEN DAY.—On Saturday last a most daring attempt was made, in the broad daylight, to commit a highway robbery in Wentworth-park, within a short distance of a residence wherein there were several persons at the time of the outrage. The persons attacked were Robert Myers, a groom, and Charles Bury, a storekeeper, both in the employment of Messrs. Dawes and Co., of the Milton ironworks. It is the duty of these men to go to Rotherham every Saturday morning, where they obtain (at the branch of the Sheffield and Rotherham bank) sufficient money to pay the wages of the men at the works, and return with it the same afternoon. The sum which they thus carry from Rotherham to the Milton works is often very considerable in amount. No doubt the circumstance of these periodical journeys had become generally known; and the men who made the attack were incited by the hope of obtaining a handsome booty. Last Saturday morning Myers and Bury went as usual in a dog-cart to the bank at Rotherham, where they obtained £800, one-half in gold and the other half in Bank of England notes. They deposited the money in a large leather bag, which they placed underneath the foot-rug in the dog-cart, and proceeded to drive back to Milton. In passing between twelve and one o'clock in the afternoon through Wentworth-park, they saw two men emerge from a plantation in advance of the vehicle, and station themselves one on each side of the road. Their appearance was rather suspicious; but the men in the dog-cart drove on, never dreaming that any person would venture upon an attack in open day, especially as the residence of the Earl Fitzwilliam's stud-groom was only about 200 yards distant. When they reached the spot where the two men were standing one of them seized the bridle, and producing a pistol, threatened to use it if the money was not instantly produced. Both the men in the vehicle protested that they had no money; but the man with the pistol exclaimed. "Yes, you have; I'll blow your brains out if you don't give it up." The men persisted in affirming that they had no money; whereupon one of the ruffians, without further parley, sprang into the cart and dragged Myers out. A fierce struggle took place, in the course of which the robber managed to get out of Myers's pockets 7s. 6d. in silver and a tobacco-pouch containing a quantity of tobacco. In the meantime the other fellow jumped up into the vehicle and attacked Bury with a life-preserver, with which he struck him a heavy blow on the head, and immediately began ransacking the dog-cart, which Bury permitted him to do, keeping all his energies fixed upon the preservation of the foot-rug, on which he firmly planted himself. In a few minutes the two ruffians made off without discovering the money in the vehicle. As soon as the men ran away Myers mustered up courage enough to run after them, thinking that he should be backed up by somebody from the residence of the stud-groom; but when he had gone a little way the robbers halted and put themselves in a threatening attitude, upon which Myers deemed it prudent to retire. While Myers was pursuing the men, Bury, feeling himself faint from loss of blood caused by the wound in his head, drove on in the dog-cart without waiting to give an alarm at the adjoining house. On his way he stopped at Wentworth-house (the residence of Earl Fitzwilliam), where he related to the parties what had taken place, and handed over the £800 to Mr. Moore (saddler to his Lordship), by whom it was safely conveyed to Milton the same afternoon.

THE FRENCH CAMP AT MASLAK.—It now contains about 20,000 men, which number will probably be raised to 25,000 in another week. Nothing can be more decorous and orderly than the behaviour of these large bodies of troops in the vicinity of a large capital, and exposed to many temptations. The Camp is arranged with great regard to health and convenience. The long straight lines of tents form lanes and thoroughfares along which visitors are allowed to stroll. Two bands play morning and evening; indeed, wherever French troops are to be met with there is music. The spirits of the men in the Crimea have been kept up by the lively air which resounds through their Camp, and which the British troops hasten to listen to. There is said to be a certain amount of cholera in the Camp; but on inquiry I find that the number of sick is not great, nor beyond what must be expected in every large assemblage of men.—*Letter from Constantinople, April 25.*

THE INQUEST ON THE BODIES OF PASSENGERS OF THE EMIGRANT-SHIP JOHN, WHICH WAS WRECKED ON THE WEST COAST LAST WEEK, HAS TERMINATED IN A VERDICT OF "MANSLAUGHTER" AGAINST CAPTAIN RAWLE, WHO HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO BODMIN GAOL. IT APPEARS THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SOULS ON BOARD WAS 288—VIZ., 269 EMIGRANTS, AND THE CREW, 19. OF THESE 93 ARE SAVED, INCLUDING IN THIS THE WHOLE OF THE CREW. WHEN THE VESSEL STRUCK ONE PASSENGER ONLY WAS ON DECK, NAMED SOLOMON, ALL THE OTHERS BEING BELOW, AND CHIEFLY IN BED. SOLOMON GOT, WITH TWO OR THREE OTHERS, INTO A BOAT, AND LEFT THE VESSEL BEFORE SHE GROUNDED IN THE COVE, AND SUCCEEDED IN REACHING PERTHAWLOW.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

LORD WARD sailed from Marseilles on the morning of the 1st inst. for Constantinople, in his steam-yacht *London*.

EARL GRANVILLE is slowly recovering from his late accident, though still unable to leave his house.

MR. PERRY, SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGATION, HAS FORMALLY ANNOUNCED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE ARRANGEMENT PROPOSED BY THE SPANISH CABINET IN THE AFFAIR OF THE *BLACK WARRIOR*.

THE REV. SIR FREDERICK A. G. OUSELEY, BART., M.A., D.M. OF CHRIST CHURCH, HAS BEEN APPOINTED PROFESSOR OF MUSIC, IN THE ROOM OF THE LATE SIR HENRY ROWLEY BISHOP.

THE FRENCH EMPEROR AND EMPRESS ATTENDED THE PERFORMANCE OF THE "DIAMANS DE LA COURONNE," AT THE OPERA COMIQUE, ON MONDAY EVENING. THEIR MAJESTIES ON ARRIVING AND DEPARTING WERE RECEIVED WITH ACCLAMATIONS.

LOD STRATFORD DE REDDITCH AND M. BENEDETTI HAVE RECEIVED FROM KING OTHO THE INSIGNIA OF THE ORDER OF THE SAINT.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA HAD AN ATTACK OF FEVER ON THE 1ST INST., WHICH CEASED ON THE FOLLOWING DAY; AND A FRESH ATTACK ON THURSDAY, WHICH CEASED ON FRIDAY NIGHT.

THE CZAR HAS REWARDED GENERAL BARON OSTEN-SACKEN'S MERITS AS DEFENDER FIRST OF ODESSA, AND NEXT OF SEBASTOPOL, BY RAISING HIM TO THE DIGNITY OF A COUNT.

THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR, IN THE NAME OF HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON III., HAS PRESENTED SIR JOSEPH PAXTON WITH A GOLD SNUFF-BOX, BEAUTIFULLY MOUNTED, AND HAVING THE IMPERIAL CIPHER SET IN BRILLIANTS.

A LETTER FROM ROME STATES THAT THE GOLDEN ROSE, WHICH THE POPE BLESSES EVERY YEAR, AND PRESENTS TO SOME FEMALE SOVEREIGN, IS THIS YEAR TO BE GIVEN TO THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

VISCOUNT DONERALES HAS BEEN CHOSEN, BY A MAJORITY OF VOTES, AS AN IRISH REPRESENTATIVE PEER TO SIT IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS, IN THE ROOM OF THE LATE LORD O'NEILL.

THE FRENCH EMPEROR HAS GRANTED A PENSION OF 4000L A YEAR TO MADAME BIZOT, THE WIDOW OF THE GENERAL OF ENGINEERS, WHO RECEIVED HIS DEATH-WOUND BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

LOD DE REDDITCH AND HIS FAMILY ARE LIVING ON BOARD THE "CARADOC," AT BALACLAVA, ENJOYING THE HOSPITALITIES OF CAPTAIN DERRIMAN. THE BISHOP OF GIBRALTAR IS ALSO IN THE CRIMEA.

ABD-EL-KADER HAS APPLIED TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT FOR PERMISSION TO VISIT PARIS, TO SEE THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

THE VIENNA PAPERS ANNOUNCE THAT THE EMPEROR INTENDS TO REPAIR TO GALICIA ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF MAY. THE OBJECT OF THE JOURNEY IS TO PASS THE ARMY IN REVIEW.

M. TITOFF, WHO, WITH PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF, REPRESENTED RUSSIA AT THE LATE CONFERENCES, HAS JUST LOST A SON AT SEBASTOPOL, WHERE HE WAS SERVING AS A LIEUTENANT.

THE COUNT FLAHAULT'S NEW RESIDENCE, COVENTRY-HOUSE, IS UNDERGOING PARTIAL EMBELLISHMENT, PREPARATORY TO THE NOBLE COUNT AND COUNTESS AND FAMILY TAKING UP THEIR ABOVE THERE.

THE DEPARTURE OF MARSHAL VAILLANT, TO SUPERSEDE GENERAL CANNEROBERT, IS REPORTED IN PARIS.

JAMES HUDSON, ESQ., ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY TO THE KING OF SARDINIA, C.B., HAS BEEN APPOINTED A CIVIL KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE ORDER OF THE BATH.

AN IMPERIAL DECREE APPOINTS M. THOUVENEL, FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO THE SUBLIME PORTE, AND M. BENEDETTI, NOW AT CONSTANTINOPLE, MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY TO PERSIA.

THE MEMBERS OF THE PARISIAN CLUB, "CERCLE DE PARIS," HAVE INVITED THE MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR UNITED SERVICE CLUB TO BECOME HONORARY MEMBERS DURING THE EXHIBITION.

MR. JOSEPH STURGE HAS PRESENTED THE CORPORATION OF BIRMINGHAM WITH EIGHT ACRES OF GRASS LAND FOR



ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH FROM THE CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL TO LONDON.—LANDING AND CONNECTING THE WIRE CABLE AT CAPE KALIakra.

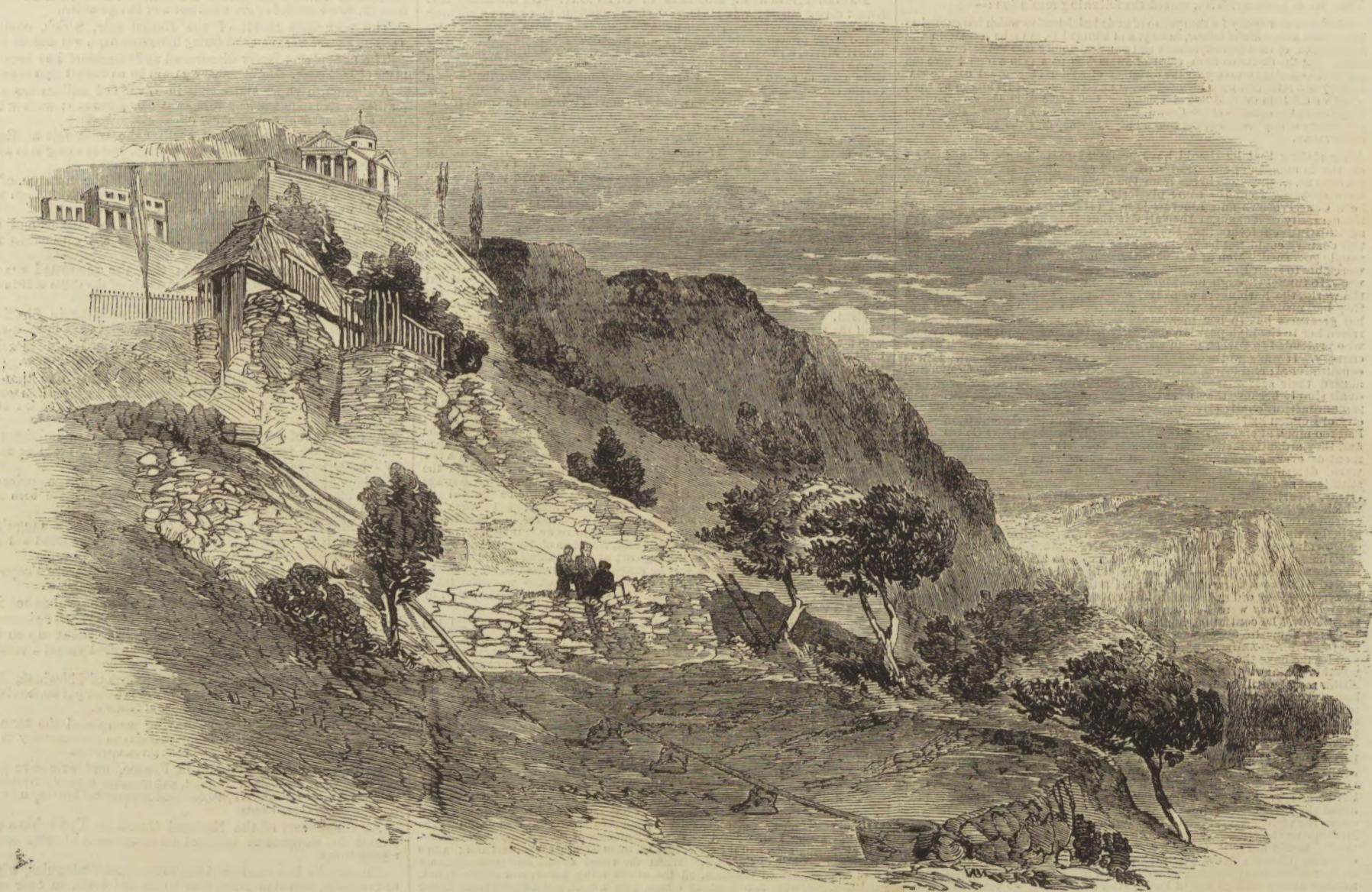
ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH FROM THE CRIMEA
TO LONDON.

IN our Journal of last week we detailed the operation of laying down the electric cable from near Varna to Balaclava, by which means we are now in daily receipt of intelligence from the Camp before Sebastopol. We then also gave a View of the Varna Station, at Cape Kaliakra; and a Correspondent now enables us to illustrate the operation more in detail in the accompany bird's-eye Sketch, by Dr. J. Johnston, surgeon of the *Argus*. Our Correspondent writes from Balaclava, April 14th:—“We arrived here yesterday, having safely landed the telegraphic cable in the small bay called St. George's, where the Monastery so often spoken of is situated. As we were cautiously and slowly approaching the coast, during the previous night, we could see the flashing of the guns around Sebastopol; and occasionally we heard the booming of the heavier pieces of artillery.” Of St. George's Bay and Monastery we also annex a view.

Of all the applications yet made of electro-telegraphic communication, the most striking is that just effected by the throwing of the longest submarine cable yet made, across the Black Sea, from near Varna to Balaclava, whence it has been further laid down not only to the head-quarters of our army, but to the very trenches before Sebastopol. In the *Builder* of last week it is remarked that “it would not now be difficult, by some little farther novelty of invention, to cause the reverberation of the very cannons themselves, as it were, to be transmitted, in the shape of electric vibration, through the 3000 miles of intervening wire, and heard, in still continuous vibrations, finally communicated to some acoustic apparatus in the British Houses of Parliament! Such is the close co-relationship of forces, that this is literally perfectly possible; and, although it would not be precisely the sound of the cannons which our legislators would hear, it would actually be the vibratory reverberations of that very sound itself; for all sounds are vibratory forces, which reverberate into the electric interiors of material substances; and some recent experiments have curiously illustrated this very point in physical science. At all events,

now, we are practically and at farthest only a trifle of time distant, from Sebastopol, and there is no physical reason why the public should not know every morning, noon, and night, what is at these very times going on at the seat of war.”

THE RUSSIAN ENGINEER TODLEBEN.—The name of the head engineer at Sebastopol is Todleben. He is thirty-two years of age. His parents are poor shopkeepers in Riga. When the siege commenced, Prince Menschikoff, it is said, asked the then head engineer how long it would take to put the place in a state of defence. He answered “Two months.” A young captain, named Todleben, stepped forward and said he would undertake to do it, if he had as many men as he required, in two weeks. He did it in twelve days, and was made Colonel. Since that time he has had the direction of everything in the way of building batteries, defences, &c. The other day the Grand Dukes called upon his wife, who is residing in St. Petersburg, to congratulate her upon her husband's promotion; for he is now General and Aide-de-Camp to the Emperor.



MONASTERY OF ST. GEORGE, BALACLAVA.



THE BALTIC FLEET.—“THE ARCHER” IN THE ICE IN WINGO BAY.

THE BALTIC FLEET.—H.M.S. “ARCHER” IN THE ICE. We have to thank a Correspondent in the Baltic Fleet for the accompanying Sketch of the *Archer*, surrounded by the ice, at the entrance of Wingo Sound. The *Archer*, with the *Desperate* under her command, had the honour and good fortune to first enter the Baltic this spring, and has also taken the first two Russian prizes—viz., the *Phenix* brig, laden with rye, and a small schooner laden with coals; both bound for the Libau. The *Archer* sailed with the Flying Squadron from Deal, and anchored at the mouth of Wingo Sound on the evening of the 31st March. She there got completely surrounded by the ice, which, at the entrance to the Sound, was considerably broken up, but was quite safe to walk on for miles. In the Sound itself the masts of many small ships could be seen over the low sand-hills which border it, and the ice had the appearance of being quite compact all through the Sound. To enable the reader to judge of the lateness of the winter this year, our Correspondent states that the *Archer* arrived at Wingo Sound on the same day last year as in the pre-

sent, when she found the navigation quite free, and steamers plying up and down to Gottenburg. On proceeding to Elsinore, the drift of ice through the Sound was considered so dangerous that the Flying Squadron had to proceed to Landskrona, on the opposite side, where their reception was most enthusiastic, and where a grand ball was given to the officers. From Landskrona the *Archer* and *Desperate* were dispatched to the Baltic, which they had some difficulty in entering from the ice; but found some reward for their labours in capturing the first prizes of the season in the Baltic.

M. SOYER AT SCUTARI.

M. SOYER had the satisfaction to open his large kitchen on Easter Monday, in the Barrack Hospital of Scutari, in the presence of Lord William Paulet, Brigadier-General, and a numerous staff of military officers, besides a select company of ladies and gentlemen, who formed a jury for the pur-

pose of testing the condiments prepared by him as new diet for the hospital patients. Amongst the visitors were the eminent medical officials from the different hospitals now established on the banks of the Bosphorus, of which there are no less than six. M. Soyer's success has far exceeded his highest anticipations, though prior to his departure from England he felt assured that he should be able to effect some good in the way of ameliorating the diet.

We give M. Soyer's plan in his own words:—

“On my arrival here I first visited, in company with Miss Nightingale, and one of the principal medical officers of this Hospital, all the store-rooms, cook-houses, small kitchens, and provision departments, to learn the rules, regulations, and allowances made by the authorities. Having been initiated upon these points, at a trifling expense I at once organised one of the Turkish kitchens, belonging to the Hospital Barracks. Instead of there being no appropriate kitchen, as was represented to me by several Government employés prior to my embarkation for the East, I found



M. SOYER'S HOSPITAL KITCHEN, AT SCUTARI BARRACKS.

room for culinary purposes, even upon the most extensive scale. I then prepared my bill of fare, according to the provisions allowed, which at all times are of an inferior quality. I carefully made my experiments by means of weights and measures, and produced samples of different preparations forming the new diet. I next submitted these, with specimens of this and the other hospitals of the original diet administered, for public inspection; the result of the comparison of the two systems by tasting each article led his Lordship to write and present me with a testimonial, signed by the medical authorities, a copy of which I herewith enclose. I cannot conclude without returning my sincere thanks to the authorities and officials, who have all rendered me the utmost assistance in my undertaking; and most especially have I to express my gratitude to Miss Nightingale, who, from her extraordinary intelligence and good organisation in her kitchen, procured me the requisite materials for commencing, and thus saving at least a week's loss of time, as my model kitchen did not arrive till Saturday last.

"I have commenced supplying several of the wards, to the great satisfaction of my new guests; and purpose, in a few days introducing the system at the General Hospital, thence in the three institutions at Kullalee, under the care of Lady Stratford. Her Ladyship has likewise paid me several visits at the Barrack Hospital, being anxious that my new diet should be fully adopted at all the above establishments, and competent persons left behind me to carry out the system, which is at once simple and economical.

"A. SOYER."

"P.S. As soon as possible I shall start for Balaclava, and from thence proceed to the Camp. I am now only waiting for my new model camp-stove, which is capable of cooking for 200 men every three hours."

The following is the letter referred to above:-

Scutari Barrack Hospital Kitchen, April 9, 1855.

I cannot leave the kitchen without expressing to M. Soyer how fully I approve of the good things he has made out of the usual provisions issued for the patients in the hospital; and I could not have believed that difference could have been produced by only arrangement and a really simple art of cooking, and a proper organisation of proportions.

(Signed)

W.M. PAULET, Brigadier General Commandant Troops.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

WHATEVER they may say at Brookes's (by-the-by, the fact that this once-celebrated Club have now but two candidates on their list, while the Travellers' or the Athenaeum have their thousand or fifteen hundred aspirants, looks like one of those shadows which coming events throw before them) the meeting at the London Tavern, on Saturday last, was a serious sign of the times—a noteworthy mark of the present tendency of public opinion. It is true that the Barings, the Huths, the Rothschilds were not present, any more than the representatives of the great metropolitan banking firms; but every one knows that the natural tactics of the leading men in any line or profession is not to originate a movement, but to keep themselves in a neutral position until it has acquired a certain impetus, when, without a risk of failure, they may answer to the call which is sure to be made to them, to head the rising party. There is no great gallantry in this course of action, but plenty of selfish, common-sensical discretion, which, as it is by no means forgotten in St. James's, is very sure to be remembered in Lothbury or Lombard-street. But many of the speakers, though of the second rank in City estimation, were such as would rank as merchant princes in any other country; and, even setting aside their financial position, there was that in what they said which should win respect from thoughtful hearers or readers. Here were set of men—merchants, stockbrokers, ship-owners, attorneys—assembled; none of them, assuredly, though there were several high Tories among them, had any aristocratic tendencies or connections; and the object of their assembling was to oppose a system, which, right or wrong, they believed to be of aristocratic foundation. Suppose a similar meeting anywhere but in England—or, indeed, anywhere almost in England except in the City of London—what a deal of treble-X Liberal declamation—of tirades about Lord This's game preserving—of Lord That's son in the Excise—of Lady So-and-so's exclusive dealing—with a sprinkling of references to the Gracchi, to Brutus, or to Washington—one would have been compelled to hear! On the contrary, whether from being better informed or better tempered, the London traders on Saturday spoke of none of these things. With the exception of showing some amount of dislike for Lord Palmerston's light way of treating serious matters—not, as his best friends will admit, altogether unreasonable—the weight of attack fell, not on the aristocracy, but on the electors—the shopkeepers, tenant-farmers, yeomen, the middle class generally, of England. Is not this blame deserved? Is it not a fact that in almost every borough or county the man of high connections or of local influence has an enormous preponderance at election time over the mere possessor of talent and information? So the House of Commons is constituted—bankers, shipowners, great landed proprietors, cotton-spinners, or their sons or nominees, together with a large infusion of lawyers, who have managed at sessions or assizes to conciliate the good will of a popular attorney or wealthy banker, and who look upon the couple of thousands spent in securing their return as so much money invested on the chance of an Attorney-Generalship, or a seat in Bankruptcy at the least; and, here and there, perhaps a man or two whose brains are his chief claim to membership. It is hard to blame a Minister for choosing in such a medium his subordinates chiefly from the aristocratic classes. In the first place, he knows them usually, and can judge them best; and secondly, they have leisure, which the great City man has not. The great merchants, bankers, railway-men, can't afford to take office, on account of the magnitude of their private concerns; the second-rate people of the same kind are generally not fit for it; the lawyers, indeed, take very good care that no Minister shall ignore their claims, but their zeal for improvement usually ends with their first appointment; and as for the mere men of talent, they are so completely *rari nantes in gurgite vasto* that to Ministerial eyes, perhaps, they may be invisible. One fault in the ordinary governmental arrangements of late years most of the speakers insisted upon, as it seems to us with equal force and justice, of which certainly the Minister of the day must bear the blame—is that of making appointments as if each member of a Government was indifferently fit for every office. Of late, for instance, there has been a regular ministerial country-dance—Diplomacy *poussetting* with the Colonies, the India Board and the Admiralty changing hands, and so on. Now, it may be admitted, for the sake of argument (which is admitting a great deal), that all the Ministers are equally fit legislatively, under the check of Council-board conversation, for all the offices, but it is quite impossible that they should be so administratively. We don't see how possibly a man can be equally good at the Board of Control as at the Admiralty, or as fitted for the Foreign-office as for the Home Department, any more than we can believe that the "heavy father" could be prudently translated to the "light comedy business," or the first tragedy lady set to do the chambermaids.

The trial of the assassin Pianori has come to a conclusion, and the only possible verdict has been recorded. The most important fact that came out, beyond what was stated in the indictment, was, that Pianori was a notorious assassin who had escaped from the galleys in Rome. We read in the daily newspapers that the presiding Judge, M. Partarieu Lafosse, disliking to see a Court of Justice, on a great and solemn occasion, presenting the appearance of an Opera on a benefit night, refused to grant tickets of admission to ladies, to the great disappointment of hundreds of fair applicants. Well done, M. Partarieu Lafosse!

The last news from the Crimea is highly encouraging, and the more so because its entire exactitude is now corroborated by a Russian despatch. The French have effected a lodgment in the Russian fortifications. In an ordinarily fortified town this would be the immediate prelude before the reduction of the place; but, from the peculiar character of the Russian defences, it is here only a step in that direction. It is a step, however, and a long one. We may feel assured that the next fortnight will bring us news of the gravest interest. For one, I have much confidence.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH: My Lords, I rise to give notice that on Monday next I shall move

That a humble address be presented to her Majesty,

To assure her Majesty of our continued support in the prosecution of the just and necessary war in which her Majesty is engaged.

To declare the sincere gratification with which we have regarded the perfect community of councils between her Majesty and the Emperor of the French, and have seen friendliness established and increasing between the French people and our own—events full of hope for the future to other nations as well as to ourselves.

To express our admiration of the many deeds of valour by which the Allied forces in the East have illustrated their brotherhood in arms, and our satisfaction that the brave Army of Piedmont is now called on to participate in their actions and in their fame.

To declare our persuasion that, amidst all their disappointments, the people of this country still retain the generous feelings which led them at the commencement of the war willingly to place all the means required from them at her Majesty's disposal; that they will still protect the weak against the aggression of the strong; and that they are not prepared to consent that Russia shall, by her increasing preponderance, so control the Turkish Government as practically to hold Constantinople within her grasp.

To acquaint her Majesty, that while we admit and lament the privations to which war necessarily subjects all classes of the people, we yet venture to assure her Majesty that they would, in so just a cause, bear those privations without complaint if they could feel that the war had been well conducted, that the troops had not been exposed to any hardships which could have been avoided by forethought, and that everything had been done to enable them to achieve decisive success.

Humbly to represent to her Majesty that her people, suffering privations on account of this war, have, as yet, had no such consolation: that, on the contrary, we cannot withhold from her Majesty the avowal of our conviction, that the conduct of the war has occasioned general dissatisfaction, and given rise to just complaints, and that we must humbly lay before her Majesty our deliberate opinion that it is only through the selection of men for public employment, without regard to anything but the public service, that the country can hope to prosecute the war successfully, and to attain its only legitimate object—a secure and honourable peace.

ARMY REFORM.

Lord PANMURE: My Lords, I must inform you that it was my intention to have submitted to your Lordships on Monday next a plan for the consolidation of the civil departments of the army; but, inasmuch as the debate upon the noble Earl's notice is likely to occupy the whole of the evening, I shall postpone my notice until Thursday week.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH: That will be Ascension-day.

Lord PANMURE: Then let the notice stand for Friday week.

THE CRIMEAN MEDAL.

Lord VIVIAN wished to inquire of his noble friend what had been the cause of the delay in issuing the medals for the battles of the Alma, Balaclava, and Inkerman. The chances of war had carried off many to their last account, to whom this honour would have been consolation.

Lord PANMURE said that it took some time to prepare the medals, but he was happy to say that they would be ready in a very short time for distribution to the troops. There was also a higher class of honours for the officers who were engaged in these actions, and no one regretted more than he the lapse of time between the period when these honours had been so gallantly gained, and the present period, when they had not yet been assigned. He referred to the honour of the Order of the Bath. The delay, however, arose from the necessity of having the names of those who were to receive the honour inserted in the *Gazette*. In order to meet that difficulty, he had some time ago written to Lord Raglan to send him the names of the officers whom he considered to be worthy of the honours.

The Earl of MALMESBURY said that there were several medals now in London which had been found on the Russian soldiers, marked "Inkerman." It was evident, therefore, that in the enemy's country these medals could be made sooner than in this country.

Lord PANMURE said, the Russian medals were prepared at the time, and all that they had to do was to inscribe the word Inkerman on them.

Lord VIVIAN asked if the noble Lord had had time to receive the list from Lord Raglan?

Lord PANMURE said, he might by this time have received it.

The *Affirmations (Scotland)* Bill was read a second time.

In answer to a question by Lord St. Leonards, the LORD CHANCELLOR said that the delay in proceeding with the Charitable Trusts Bill was owing to the illness of the Lord President of the Council, who was at the head of the Commissioners.

The Income-tax Bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

THE STATE OF THE NATION.

Mr. LAYARD asked the Government whether they could give a day for bringing forward his motion on the state of the nation.

Lord PALMERSTON said, he could not give the hon. member a day—he must find a day for himself.

Mr. LAYARD said, he would then take an early day on going into Committee of Supply for bringing forward his resolutions.

NEWSPAPER-STAMP BILL.

On the third reading of the Newspaper-stamp Bill,

Mr. HADFIELD complained of the limitation of fifteen days, beyond which stamped newspapers could not pass through the post.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER thought fifteen days was sufficiently wide; though, if the House wished it, he would not object to extend the period to thirty days. He might add that, as soon as this law passed, it was the intention of the Government to establish a cheap postage for printed matter generally.

Mr. BRIGSTOCK objected to the retransmission of newspapers altogether. He hoped that the Government would soon consider the question of the newspaper-stamp with a view to its abolition, as it was a great hardship on those papermakers who lived at a distance from the places where papers were stamped.

Mr. CALEY strongly advocated the retransmission of newspapers, as tending to a great diffusion of knowledge. He had opposed the second reading because, though he believed it would diffuse a great blessing through the country, still he could not consent to purchase that blessing at the expense of existing interests. He was in favour of a copyright in news, and in favour of transmitting the largest-sized newspapers through the post, and he now gave notice that, if newspapers of six ounces weight were not allowed to go through the post for a penny, he would divide the House against the third reading.

Mr. DUFFY reminded the House that, in the case of monthly mails to the Colonies, thirteen daily newspapers would be excluded from the Colonies altogether. He was, therefore, against the limitation altogether—at least a month ought to be allowed for the retransmission.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER had no objection to make the fortnight limitation apply exclusively to the United Kingdom.

Mr. VANSITTART moved that the bill should be read a third time that day six months. He could not find that anybody thoroughly liked this bill, except the right honourable member for Manchester, and nobody in the country wished for it, while the revenue to be lost was much more than the country could afford.

Mr. LABOUCHERE said he had voted against the second reading of the bill purely on financial grounds, and now that the Budget had been laid before them he would certainly vote for the third reading. He was favourable to the privilege of retransmitting newspapers as a measure likely to encourage the best and ablest papers.

Mr. WHITESIDE had intended to move a clause allowing a newspaper of six ounces in weight to go through the Post for a penny. He wanted to know where it had been proved that the Post-office would have more difficulty in carrying six ounces than four. He believed the great object of the present limitation to four ounces was to injure a particular journal. He wished also to know what the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed to do with reference to the second point to which his attention had been called—viz., that unstamped newspapers should be subjected to the same law as stamped newspapers, in reference to registration and the giving of securities. Under the law as it at present stood, a penny-a-liner was at liberty to write what he pleased, while the respectable journalist was obliged to find security. The House might depend upon it that no principle of legislation was so unwise and unsafe as this—that, in order to obtain a general problematical good, they were at liberty to inflict a particular injury. For these reasons he felt that he must oppose the third reading of the bill.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, the hon. and learned member had, to say the least, adopted an unusual course in respect to the bill then before the House. When he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer), in Committee of the whole House, proposed a clause calculated to give a cheap and speedy remedy to those who suffered from the present state of the law in respect to copyright, the hon. and learned member opposed that clause on grounds which he stated; and now he opposed the third reading on the ground that that clause did not form part of the original bill (Hear, hear), and was not proposed as a necessary part of the original measure, but upon the separate grounds which he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) stated to the House when he moved it. He had stated that it was alleged that the Government, indifferent to the interests of existing newspapers, had proposed a measure which would be most detrimental to those interests, by calling into existence a class of new newspapers which would prey upon the property of existing newspapers, pilfering their intelligence, and living upon the dishonest supplies thus obtained. He did not state that he believed—not did he believe—that such papers would exist to any considerable extent under the bill before the House; but he admitted that apprehensions were entertained by many persons; and he stated that the present law of copyright possessed by newspapers had proved ineffectual for the purposes it was intended to serve, and that the remedy was inefficient. He, therefore, proposed a clause which would

give an effectual remedy. That clause was fully discussed in the House; it met with little support on either side, so that he did not think himself justified in pressing the matter to a division, being satisfied that the effect of such a division would be the rejection of the clause. Under the circumstances under which that clause was proposed and withdrawn, he did not see that its rejection afforded any reason to the House for dissenting from the third reading of the bill. If the fear entertained by certain gentlemen that the bill would call into existence a large class of piratical newspapers should be realised, it would then be in the power of the House to apply a remedy (Hear, hear, hear). A single and short Act was all that was required, either identical to the clause he had already proposed, or somewhat similar to it. He would now merely say a few words with reference to a proposition by the hon. and learned member which stood upon the votes, which was an additional clause altering the law with respect to supplements. The clause was as follows:—"Every periodical publication that shall be printed and published at intervals not exceeding seven days between the two consecutive parts or numbers of such publication, and the weight of which shall not on the whole exceed six ounces, shall be entitled to the said privileges of transmission and retransmission by the post, if duly stamped with the appropriate die of one penny." He (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) understood that clause to be subject to the rule of superficial inches; so that if a newspaper weighed more than six ounces it should be charged on the rule of surface, and if it weighed less, by the rule of weight. But contingencies might arise, in which it would be impossible to apply any rule. How would the honourable and learned member deal, for instance, with the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, which weighed, on the 1st of April last, 4½ ounces; on the 8th of April, 8½ ounces; on the 21st of April, 4½ ounces; and on the 28th, 7½ ounces? The honourable and learned gentleman said, he wished to have a satisfactory answer to the question why an additional duty of one halfpenny should be placed on supplements, when the Post-office could carry six ounces as easily as four ounces, and when four ounces were carried for one penny? But by what means would the honourable and learned member be justified in charging, as at present, one penny on a letter which weighed half an ounce, and twopence for a whole ounce (Hear, hear)? Was it not quite fair to establish for newspapers a rate corresponding to that of letters (Hear, hear). There was, however, this great difference in the two cases, that, whereas a newspaper was allowed to transmit 4 ounces for a penny, letters were charged one penny for only half an ounce. Of all the newspapers carried through the post, the average was 3 1/10th ounces, whereas the average of letters was less than one-fourth of an ounce. Then, with respect to the proposition of the hon. and learned member, that cheap and unstamped papers should be subject to the same laws as others with respect to registration and security, he did not see that it would be at all necessary to impose those conditions upon penny prints, and the like, published by religious and other societies, and which did not contain news.

Lord PALMERSTON stated that the Speaker was labouring under indisposition, and suggested that the bill should at once be read a third time; that the amendments to be discussed on the question that the bill do pass be adjourned to a future day; and that the House should now go into Committee on the Spirit Duties Bill.

Mr. DISRAELI said, there could be but one feeling of sympathy for the Speaker; but he thought it would be better that the debate should be adjourned.

Lord PALMERSTON assented to this, and, on the motion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer the debate was adjourned till Friday.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, when a great many of the Civil Estimates were passed.

APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY-SPEAKER.

On the House resuming, about eleven o'clock, the Clerk (Sir D. Le Marchant) read a letter from the Speaker, intimating his deep regret that he was still unable to attend the House; on which,

Lord PALMERSTON moved that the resolution of the House in 1853, authorising the appointment of a Deputy-Speaker, should be read. The resolution was read accordingly; and, in accordance with it, Lord PALMERSTON moved that Mr. Fitzroy, as Chairman of Ways and Means, should act as Deputy-Speaker, which was agreed to amidst general cheering.

Several bills were then advanced a stage.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

The Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Bill and the Bangor Markets and Public Institutions Bill were read a second time.

The Belfast and County Down Railway Bill, the Colchester, Stour Valley, Sudbury, and Halstead Railway Bill, Grand Junction Water Bill, South Wales Mineral Railway Bill, Southwark and Vauxhall Water Bill, Vale of Neath Railway Bill, Dursley and Midland Railway Bill, and Woolwich Equitable Gas Bill were read a third time and passed.

THE VIENNA PAPERS.

The Earl of CLarendon laid on the table papers relating to the negotiations at Vienna, to which he hoped to add in a few days the protocols of the Conferences which had been held since Lord John Russell's departure from Vienna.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

In consequence of there not being forty members present at four o'clock, the House stood adjourned to Wednesday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

MARRIAGES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Mr. HEADLAM moved the second reading of this bill, the object of which, he said, was to give effect to the principles of the Scotch law, which have become obsolete.

The LORD ADVOCATE had no objection to the principle of the bill; but he very much doubted whether it would do what it professed.

Mr. J. ELLIOTT thought the bill dealt with a great subject in a very petty manner. It would inflict a penalty, but would not render the marriages void, and would therefore form no real check. He moved, as an amendment, that the bill be read a second time this day six months.

Mr. MALINS seconded the amendment.

THE SILENT MEMBER.—(No. XVI.)

THERE is, at all events, one branch of the public service in which the demand for Administrative Reform has been anticipated, and where the right man will be found in the right place—in the person of Mr. Rowland Hill, the Secretary to the Post-office. When I say that he is exactly in the right place I am not sure that I am doing him full justice, for I know no reason why he should not be at the very head of that department, to which he has rendered the most signal services. It is customary to make the office of Postmaster-General a political post, but there seems to be no good reason why the man who has shown the highest ability in the management of the department should not be at the top of it. Unless Lord Canning is an abler man than Mr. Rowland Hill, why should the former occupy the place of Postmaster-General, while the latter acts as Secretary? and why, in fact, should it always be thought necessary to have a gilt top to the staff—an expensive article for show rather than for use—in all our public departments? My attention has been called to this subject by the perusal of an admirable report from the Post-office, which seems to me to bear the stamp of Rowland Hill, though it bears the signature of Canning. If I am doing an injustice to the latter I shall be glad to be set right, but, if the Secretary has had a principal hand in framing the report, I think he ought to have the credit due to the production. It gives a very interesting account of the progress of our postal arrangements, from the earliest period at which they were commenced, and shows how one great idea—the acceleration of the mails—was due to Mr. Palmer, the manager of the theatre at Bath; while another still greater idea—the uniform Penny Postage—is known to have emanated from Mr. Rowland himself; so that the two most important steps in Post-office reform were the work of men who were wholly without official experience. This was pretty sure to be the case under the old system of patronage, which gave appointments in the public service as the rewards of political pliancy; and when the heads of public departments were disposed to snub rather than to encourage any zeal or ability that might be manifested among the subordinates. It has been the fashion to put down as "troublesome" the clerk who might presume to suggest any improvement in the mode of doing the business he is engaged to perform; and hence there has grown up an apathy among the members of the Civil Service, who have felt a chilling sense of the uselessness of any attempt to stir out of the ruts of routine in which they are doomed to travel. The Post-office may claim the distinguished honour of being the first of the public departments which has begun to set its own house in order before the hands of Administrative Reform have been laid on it. Nor can it be said that the threat of an approaching interference has been the cause of the improvements that have been made, for it is about a year ago that several very important changes were effected in the internal administration of the affairs of the Post-office. Arrangements were some time since proposed by which a more liberal treatment of those employed in the department might be adopted, with a view to encourage zeal and promote efficiency; and it must be said, to the credit of the Treasury, that the means were readily granted for carrying out the objects desired. The report just issued by the Post-office will, I hope, be the precursor of similar reports from other public departments, all of which may be improved by the very wholesome habit of giving periodically account of their stewardship.

One would imagine that the House of Commons must be illuminated by laughing gas, so powerful is the propensity to laughter which the members appear to labour under. It would be disrespectful to the House to refer its continual merriment to the fact that "weak minds are easily amused," and it must therefore be assumed that the Legislature is suffering from fits of involuntary merriment. The most curious feature of the disease is its tendency to break out under the most naturally depressing circumstances, for there are sure to be the greatest number of "laughs" in the House of Commons on those nights when the disagreeable communications, or the still more disagreeable confessions of having no communication to make at all, on the part of the Government, are most numerous. It is, undoubtedly, a peculiarity of the weakest and worst side of human nature to laugh at the difficulties and distresses of others; but the House of Commons cannot so far separate its sympathies from the nation at large as to be able to laugh the more as often as the public disasters are multiplied. I am, therefore, disposed to regard the mirth of the House of Commons under the present gloomy aspect of our national affairs as somewhat hysterical, and the laughter which greets the appearance of Lord Palmerston must be the result of some fearful fascination, connected with the idea that he has something alarming to communicate.

Louis Napoleon has shown his wisdom in the mode he has adopted for bringing to justice the Italian who shot at him. The very short work that was made of the trial of this man offers little encouragement to those who are tempted by vanity to commit a crime which generally gives great prominence and some political interest to the person of the criminal. The exclusion of the crowd of ladies whom a prurient curiosity would have attracted to the Court was another admirable mode of divesting the affair of those accessories which, in the distorted views of some weak-minded persons, tend to alleviate the position of the assassin, and render it one to be endured, if not to be positively desired. The lesson will not be lost, it is to be hoped, on those ministers of justice in this country who sometimes have allowed the bench to be degraded by the admission of privileged friends, including, frequently, a large proportion of what are called "gentlewomen," who come to enjoy the not very gentle or womanly satisfaction of staring at a murderer, or some other notorious criminal. The example which has arisen out of a piece of political expediency will, I hope, henceforth be followed as a matter of good taste; and it will be for the first magistrate who happens to have a great culprit before him to refuse to allow his court to be turned into an exhibition, by permitting the prisoner to be "on view," except so far as the publicity of the administration of justice may require.

Nothing is known at the moment at which I write as to the fate of the criminal, whose antecedents, as they appear by intelligence from Rome, say nothing in his favour. If what has been stated is true, he has more than once committed crimes to which the law attaches the punishment of death; though, in the absence of any reason for his not having been executed, the fact of his being alive may give a *prima facie* validity to his denial of the crimes he is said to have already committed. In our Courts of Law we should require some stronger proof of a previous conviction than a telegraphic message from even such a source of infallibility as Rome; and, moreover, all the numerous hands through which such a message must have passed are not recognised even in Rome as exempt from the possibility of error. This accumulation of guilt by electric telegraph on the head of the attempted assassin is somewhat superfluous, for the crime of which he has been found guilty is quite bad enough to show that he deserves the highest penalty the law can inflict, and to make it an act of grace to spare his life, should such be the course adopted by the Emperor.

The ill effects of the practice of lionising prisoners have been shown, in a minor degree, by the recent insubordination of the Russians at Lewes, who have been petted and pampered until they have become too idle to work, and too insolent to obey the rules of necessary discipline. At one time it was feared that their position would be reversed, with reference to the prison authorities, at Lewes, who were very nearly being held in captivity by the captives. The little incident that has occurred will, it is to be hoped, remind some of those who indulge in the dissipation of fancy philanthropy that "charity begins at home," and that a taste for alleviating the sufferings of prisoners may be gratified in a very legitimate mode by visiting the gaols, and administering comfort, in various ways, to many of the unfortunate inmates.

DESPATCH FROM LORD RAGLAN.

War Department, May 7, 1855.
Lord Panmure has this day received a despatch and its enclosures, of which the following are copies, addressed to his Lordship by Field-Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B.:

Before Sebastopol, April 24, 1855.

My Lord,—Nothing material has occurred since I made my report to your Lordship on the 21st instant.

The Russian rifle-pit, immediately in front of that which was taken on the night of the 19th, was destroyed by a party of volunteers on the morning of the 21st instant. These were headed by Lieutenant and Adjutant Walker, of the 30th Regiment, who is stated to be an excellent officer, and to have conducted himself on the occasion in the most spirited manner. The pit was found to be empty, and, being useless, was immediately levelled and filled in. The enemy did not interrupt the work.

I enclose the list of casualties, which, I regret to say, is heavy. The nearer we approach the place the more loss is to be apprehended. Hitherto it has been less than might have been expected.

I have, &c., RAGLAN.

The Lord Panmure, &c., &c., &c.

RETURNS OF KILLED AND WOUNDED.

Officers who have been Wounded from the 20th to 22nd April, inclusive.—62nd Foot: Lieut.-Colonel R. A. Shearman, slightly.

Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates Killed from the 20th to 22nd April, inclusive.—17th Foot: Private Charles Higginson. 41st: Private William Maitland. 49th: Private Michael Kelly. 57th: Privates Alexander Graham and Foster Murray. 62nd: Private John Furlong. Royal Artillery: Sergeant James Bratton.

Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates Wounded from the 20th to 22nd April, inclusive.—9th Foot: Private Richard Care, slightly. 19th: Private James Donnelly, severely (since 23rd). 38th: Lance-Corporal James Mullens, slightly; Privates William Archer and John Dignan, slightly. 41st: Corporals Samuel Allum, severely; James Davies, slightly; Privates John Burke, dangerously, since dead; William Coughlan, severely; John Gaffney, Edward Gaffney, slightly. 42nd: Privates Patrick Morris and Martin Hogan, slightly. 47th: Sergeant George Fenwick, severely. 50th: Private Michael Cormick, slightly. 56th: Sergeant John Gledhill, severely. 57th: Private John Treasey, severely. 58th: Private Thomas Kemp, slightly. 59th: Private William Fairlie, dangerously; Sergeant Alexander McCloy, severely. 57th: Privates Edmund Curtiss, dangerously; John Pasfield, slightly. 77th: Privates Thomas Oliver and Jessie Nicholls, dangerously. 89th: Private Moses Jones, slightly. Royal Artillery: Gunner Samuel Buckley, slightly. 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade: Lance-Corporal Joseph Rowe, slightly; Privates William Perkins, Robert Humpston, and John Twiggs, slightly; Henry Armit and Thomas Flynn, severely.

Return of Casualties in the Royal Naval Brigade, before Sebastopol, from April 21st to 23rd, inclusive.—Wounded: George Bogle, A.B., Rodney, slightly; John Collins, Ord., London, slightly. Confused: Lieut. A. A. Douglas, R.M.A., slightly; Edward Smith, A.B., Leander, slightly; Jeremiah Mahoney, Ord., Rodney, slightly; John Gordon, Ord., Queen, slightly.

THE RECONNAISSANCE ON THE 21ST OF APRIL.

On the morning of the 19th ult. orders were sent to the head-quarters of the Heavy Cavalry Brigade and to the C troop of the Royal Horse Artillery, to be in readiness to turn out at daybreak, and the 10th Hussars (Brigadier-General Parly, of the Light Cavalry, in temporary command of the Cavalry Division, during General Scarlett's absence) received similar instructions. The Chasseurs d'Afrique and a French rocket troop, for mountain service, accompanied the reconnaissance, and rendered excellent service during the day. The Heavy Cavalry Brigade, consisting of the remnants of the 1st Royals, Scots Greys, Inniskillings, 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards, and 6th (Princess Charlotte's) Dragoon Guards, turned out about five o'clock, and, with the 10th Hussars in advance, proceeded into the plain of Balaklava, the heights over which were already crowned by the Turkish infantry to the number of some 6000 or 7000 men, and before seven o'clock the whole of the troops were in motion towards Kamara. The Chasseurs d'Afrique were in advance, with a line of skirmishers spread out in front of the little expedition. The French Rocket Troop and C Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, and the 10th Hussars and Heavy Cavalry Brigade covered the advance of the infantry; and, as the morning was fine and clear, the sight presented by the troops as seen advancing across the plain from the heights was very beautiful. So little was known about the reconnaissance, that many officers at head-quarters were not aware of it till they learnt that Lord Raglan, attended by a few members of the Staff, and followed by only six orderlies, had started to overtake the troops. A great number of amateurs, forming clouds of very irregular cavalry, followed and preceded the expedition. His Excellency the Pacha, who was attended by his Staff, by Behrein Pacha (Colonel Cannon), and several Turkish officers of rank, had the control of the force.

The Turks marched in dense columns, bristling with steel, and the sunlight, flashing on the polished barrels of their firelocks and on their bayonets, relieved the sombre hue of the mass; for their dark blue uniforms, but little relieved by facings or gay shoulder-straps and cuffs, look quite black when the men are together. The Chasseurs d'Afrique, clad in light blue jackets, with white cartouch belts, and in bright red pantaloons, mounted on white Arabs, caught the eye, like a bed of flowers scattered over the plain. Nor did the rich verdure indeed require any such borrowed beauty, for the soil produces an abundance of wild flowering shrubs and beautiful plants. Dahlias, anemones, sweetbriar, whitethorn, wild parsley, mint, thyme, sage, asparagus, and a hundred other citizens of the vegetable kingdom spring up all over the plain; and, as the Turkish infantry moved along, their feet crushed the sweet flowers, and the air was filled with delicate odours, which overcame the sweltering atmosphere around the columns. Rectangular patches of long, rank, rich grass, waving high above the more natural green meadow, marked the mounds where the slain of the 25th of October are reposing for ever, and the snorting horse refuses to eat the unwholesome shoots. As the force moved on evidences of that fatal and glorious day became thick and painful. The skeleton of an English dragoon, said to be one of the Royals, lay still extended on the plain, with tattered bits of red cloth hanging to the bones of his arms. All the buttons had been cut off the jacket. The man must have fallen early in the day, when the Heavy Cavalry were close up to Canrobert's-hill, and came under the fire of the Russian artillery. There was also a Russian skeleton at hand in ghastly companionship.

Not the least interesting part of the spectacle was furnished by the reliefs of the Heavy Cavalry Brigade passing over the scene of their grand encounter with the Muscovite cavalry. Scots Greys and Inniskillings, Royals, 4th Dragoon Guards, and 5th Dragoon Guards, all had been there; and the survivors might well feel proud when they thought of that day. These regiments were not larger than troops, and some of them, indeed, were not nearly equal in strength to a troop on war footing, for some of their men have been sent away for remount horses (a proceeding which strikes a civilian as rather curious, seeing that the horses might as well, one would think, have been brought up to them), and others of the men who were left have no horses to mount. The 10th Hussars were conspicuous for the soldierly and efficient look of the men, and the fine condition of their light sinewy and showy horses. As the force descended into the plain they extended their right flank, and marched towards Kamara, spreading across the ground in front of Canrobert's-hill from No. 2 Turkish Redoubt up to the slope which leads to the ruined village. A party of Turkish infantry followed the cavalry in skirmishing order, and on approaching the village the column immediately in their rear halted, and Bono Johnny proceeded with great activity to cover the high wooded hill which overhangs the village to the right. This they did without resistance, as the few Cossacks in the village had abandoned it after firing a few straggling shots at the advanced skirmishers. One fellow had been so completely taken by surprise that he left his lance leaning against a wall. An officer of the 71st espied it just as the Cossack was making a bolt back for it. They both rode their best, but the Briton was first, and carried off the lance in triumph, while the Cossack retreated with effective pantomime, representing rage and despair.

As soon as the Turks on the right had gained the summit of the hill above Kamara three of the columns advanced and took possession of the ruins, and then drew up on the slope in front of the church. A few men were sent further on towards Baidar, but could see no enemy; and they contented themselves with burning a building which the Cossacks had left standing, the smoke from which led to the belief that a little skirmish was going on among the hills. Meantime the great bulk of the force, leaving three columns halted at Kamara, marched on past Canrobert's-hill, the sides of which are covered with the wigwams of the Russians—some recent, others those which were partially burnt when Liprandi retired last year. They passed by the old Turkish redoubts, Nos. 1 and 2, towards a very steep and rocky conical hill covered with loose stones, near the top of which the Russians threw up a wall of rubbish, about 2½ feet high. A group of Cossacks and some Russian officers had assembled on the top of this hill to examine the strength of the Allies and watch their movements. As the Turkish skirmishers advanced, the French Rocket Troop accompanied them. The Turks ascended the hill with ardour and with great agility, firing their pieces as they advanced, to which the Cossacks replied by a petty fusillade. Suddenly an arch of thick white smoke rises from the ground with a fierce, hissing, rushing noise, and throws itself like a great snake towards the crest of the hill—as it flies onward the smoke disappears and the fiery trail is lost; but in a second a puff of smoke bursts out with a slight explosion on the hill top, and the Cossacks and Russians disappear with precipitation. In fact, the French had begun their rocket practice with great accuracy and success. Nothing can be better for such work as this than these light rocket troops. The apparatus is simple and portable—a few mules, with panniers on each side, carry the whole of the tubes, cases, sticks, fuses, &c.; and the effect of rockets, though uncertain, is very great,

especially against irregular and ill-disciplined cavalry. The skirmishers now crowded this hill also, and the generals and officers of the Staff, and numerous idlers and amateurs followed them. The Russians rode rapidly down the hill side, and crossed the Tchernaya by the bridge, and at one or two fords near Tchorgoun. Omer Pacha, Lord Raglan, and the French Generals then spent some time in surveying the country, while the troops were halted in the rear, the artillery and cavalry first, supported by four battalions of Egyptians. At two o'clock the reconnaissance was over, and the troops slowly retired to the camp; the skirmishers of the French cavalry being followed by them from time to time. Before the troops moved off the ground the 10th Hussars filed past Omer Pacha, who seemed very much gratified and pleased at the appearance of men and horses. He then inspected his own battalions, and on the march homeward followed the Turks, moving off in good style to the music of their own bands, to the great distress of those who heard them. Altogether, the reconnaissance was a most welcome and delightful interlude in the dull, monotonous "performances" of the siege.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

INFANTRY REGIMENTS of the line on home service, and regiments of militia serving in the Colonies, are to be supplied with twelve Minie rifles per company, and militia regiments doing duty within the United Kingdom four per company, for the purpose of instructing the men in the use of that weapon.

It is understood to be the intention of the British and French Governments to send a strong force of artillery and infantry to assist in the operations about to be resumed against the Russian fortresses in the Gulfs of Finland and Bothnia, and the Baltic. It is stated that the expedition will number 25,000 men, France supplying the greater portion; but, as a set-off, the British Government is to increase the naval forces, and to furnish tonnage for the conveyance of the troops, which will embark sufficiently early to reach the scene of operations before the ice breaks up. The British will embark at Leith, and the French at Brest or Boulogne.

It is intended to augment the army in the Crimea by two regiments of cavalry of 700 sabres each, and five battalions of infantry, each mustering 1200 bayonets; making a total of 7400 cavalry and infantry. In addition to the above, the horse brigade, siege, and field trains of the Royal Artillery are to be increased; and the line regiments in the Mediterranean and Ionian Islands will proceed to join the army in the East. It has not as yet been officially announced what regiments are to be placed under orders for active service but it is believed that the 3rd Light Dragoons, quartered in Manchester, and the 7th Hussars, at York, will form the cavalry reinforcements, and that the infantry will consist of the 51st King's Own Light Infantry, from Manchester; 9th Foot, from Fort George; 82nd Foot, from Edinburgh; 94th Foot, from Weymouth; and the 3rd battalion of the Rifle Brigade (newly raised), from Portsmouth.

The importance of the fleet of screw gun-boats is being daily recognised. It is now determined to increase the number, so that both fleets in the Baltic and Black Seas shall have a squadron of these powerful little "sharpshooters."

TWELVE additional companies of the Royal Artillery have been placed under orders to hold themselves in readiness to embark for the seat of war in the East.

An order has been received at the Royal Arsenal to send out immediately to the Crimea 20,000 shells—10,000 13-inch shells, and 10,000 10-inch shells. The order was received at Woolwich within twenty-four hours from leaving Sebastopol.

In addition to Aldershot, which is to accommodate 10,000 men, several other encampments on a minor scale are to be formed; namely, one at Haverhill, capable of accommodating 1034 men; one at Exeter, for 2453 men; one at Gloucester, for 3895 men; one at Colchester, for 3322 men; and one at Shorncliffe, Kent, for 3313 men. These encampments will be appropriated principally to the militia that cannot be accommodated in barracks.

THE FOREIGN LEGION.—The Foreign Legion is to be immediately enrolled, and will be organised with the utmost expedition. The men will assemble in Heligoland and at Shorncliffe, near Dover; and it is expected that 5000 so embodied will be ready for active service in about six weeks. This appears an incredibly short space of time, but it arises from the fact of there being scarcely a man enlisted who has not already completed three years' service in his own country. They are entirely Germans, and are taken principally from amongst the artistic or mechanical classes of the community. The officers, particularly the juniors, are also Germans. Some of the superior officers are English, whose former career has recommended them to the notice of the War Minister. The Baron de Stutterheim, who is employed to organise the force, is an officer of high distinction; and like Colonel Woolridge, who is to command a brigade, is also one of General Evans's officers. Colonel Kinlock, appointed to be inspector of the force, is one of the late British Legion officers.

TELEGRAPHIC orders reached Sheerness on Monday for the gun-boats Cracker, Clinker, Fancy, and Bozer to get up steam and proceed immediately for Portsmouth *en route* for the Black Sea. They all left on Monday between one and two o'clock p.m.

A LARGE supply of the new regulation sword-bayonet has been received into the ordnance stores in the Tower. This weapon is for the use of the rifle regiments; it is intended to supersede the old bayonet, and, when attached to a rifle, the two together will be precisely the same length as an infantry musket with a fixed bayonet; so that the rifleman will be placed on an equality with a battalion soldier when fighting in line or exposed singly to an enemy. The length of the sword-bayonet is thirty inches from hilt to point; the blade is straight for twelve inches, when it assumes the shape of an ancient falchion, slightly curved, and with edges on either side.

MEDICINE-CHEST FOR THE ARMY.—Messrs. Savory and Moore have just produced a medicine-chest, intended for the use of the Army, which is well worthy of notice, on account of its portable nature, and the comprehensive and orderly arrangement of its contents. The medicine-chest commonly used by the Army surgeons is a bulky, cumbersome affair, and, as in a midshipman's chest, everything is uppermost and nothing at hand. Savory and Moore's new medicine-chest may with convenience be carried on the back of a mule. The compartment which contains the lint, bandages, and dressings, required at a short notice on the field of battle, can be unshipped, and carried with ease to any spot where it may be required; and another compartment contains a lantern which can be fixed by a spike on the ground.

A BRAVE BUGLER.—After the funeral of Colonel Egerton Lord Raglan paid a visit to the hospital of the 77th Regiment. On the way, one of the regimental buglers, named McGill, was introduced to his Lordship's notice. This young soldier had particularly distinguished himself on the night of the attack. He was one of the first in the ambuscade, and, having marked a Russian bugler there, he selected him for his antagonist, as it were his particular province to attack a man of his own calling before any other. Although the Russian had the advantage in size, McGill knocked him over, and eventually succeeded in securing him as a prisoner. He also carried off his bugle as a prize; but after a hard struggle, for the Russian warmly contested his own right to this property. This trophy he had now the honour of exhibiting to Lord Raglan, and on being desired to sound some of the notes of the bugle, he at once blew the "advance." The instrument has a shriller tone than the English bugle, is small and portable, and has engraved on the bell the Russian imperial arms. In the struggle with the Russian bugler McGill inflicted a severe sword wound on a Russian soldier who came to the rescue; and afterwards, having placed his prisoner in safe keeping, remained by his Colonel's side till he fell.—*Letter from the Camp.*

THE REVOLT IN THE UKRAINE.—Private letters from St. Petersburg confirm the telegraphic announcement of the insurrection of the peasants in the Ukraine; and state, further, that it has already extended to the Government of Poltowa, Tchernigoff, and Kharkoff. The names of twenty landed proprietors whom the maddened mouskies have destroyed, together with their wives and children, have reached St. Petersburg. M. Poletien, one of the richest proprietors in the government of Tchernigoff, was burnt alive in his country house at Beletz.

PRESENT STRENGTH OF RUSSIA IN THE CRIMEA.—The military correspondent of the *Augsburg Gazette* writes from the Polish frontier that the reinforcements received by the Russian Commanders in the west of the Crimea since the battle of Inkerman bear no proportion to those which have joined the Allies. He says—"Numerically, Omer Pacha's corps alone is almost equal to the entire reinforcements of the Russians. The new Russian troops which have entered the Crimea since the battle just mentioned are the following: the 2nd Brigade of the Thirteenth Reserve Infantry Division, and the two Brigades of the Fourteenth Reserve Infantry Division, forming together twelve battalions, or at most 9000 men; further, the Ninth Infantry Division, at present near Perekop, and numbering possibly 10,000 men. These and a Greek volunteer battalion make up the reinforcements of the Russian infantry, since the battle of Inkerman, for the troops of the Second Infantry Corps, represented by some journals as having marched to the Crimea, and the Division of General Wagner, said by the *Austrian Military Gazette* to be in the Valley of Baidar, are not there; the second corps, in fact, is still in Poland. Before the battle of Inkerman the Russians had no more than 70,000 infantry in the Crimea; at the present moment they should have about 90,000. The cavalry force which has joined the Russian army since the battle of Inkerman consists of six regular regiments. If we reckon the crews of the ships at 8000, and the Tchernomorskian battalions at 6000; the Rifles, Sappers, Engineers, and Artillery at 15,000; and the cavalry, regular and irregular, at

SKETCHES FROM THE WAR.



SEBASTOPOL, FROM THE VICTORIA REDOUBT.

MALAKOFF.

MAMELON.

WE now engrave the pair of Sketches described in our Artist's letter last week. First is a view of Sebastopol, from the sketcher's right, near the Victoria Redoubt, a little to the left of Inkerman. To the extreme left is represented an explosion of a powder-magazine, which unfortunately occurred when our Artist was making his sketch. Two men were killed, and nine or ten wounded.

Among the late details of the first locality, it is stated that the English were engaged in pushing an advanced work beyond the now old-advanced parallel. The zigzags for this advance, from the extreme left of Gordon's Battery and from the right, form the advanced work near the Mamelon,

and were within sixty yards of the Malakoff Tower on the right, and on the left within one hundred of the Redan. This is as far as they are at present intended to be taken, and the working parties were forming the parallel across which is to connect the approaches from the right and left.

The second Sketch is from the left, *Maison d'Observation*, or *Maison Blanche*, as it is sometimes called. At the end of the house, just above the garden wall, may be seen the Telegraph.

Our own Correspondent writes:—“Camp, near Sebastopol, April 28.—On Monday evening a Russian powder magazine on the left of the Malakoff

(mortar battery) blew up, and the enemy ceased firing for nearly an hour. On Tuesday night an immense deal of musketry was heard on the left; our allies kept it up in order to prevent the Russians from advancing to retake a rifle-pit; but at daybreak on the following morning the firing from the French had nearly ceased, the enemy advanced in overpowering force, and our allies were obliged to retire. The general opinion is, that in about eight or ten days we open fire once more. At present the firing is very slack. Yesterday we had a grand review of Bosquet's Division, 40,000 men, and to-day that of Pelissier's, of about 30,000 to 35,000. Lady Stratford and her daughters were present.”



SEBASTOPOL, FROM THE MAISON D'OBSESSION

OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.



"WAITING FOR THE GUNS."—PAINTED BY J. W. BOTTOMLEY.—FROM THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

NEVER has the public been more divided about the merits and appearance of an Exhibition than they are now divided about the Exhibition opened to the public in Trafalgar-square on Monday last. If the Private View on Friday was somewhat thinly attended, and the people present somewhat guarded in their words of commendation, the Public Opening on Monday was a striking contrast, from its unpleasant overcrowding, and the marked freedom of the criticisms expressed pretty loudly on the general merits of the Exhibition and the relative excellence of particular works of art. To get near to certain pictures by artists of known reputation was, on Monday last, a difficulty not to be described; to see them was simply an impossibility. The greatest

crowds were before Mr. Macrise's "Orlando," Mr. Millais' "Rescue," and Mr. Leighton's "Procession." Mr. Betts is the fortunate owner of the Macrise; Mr. Joseph Arden is the lucky possessor of the Millais, and her Majesty the tasteful purchaser of the Leighton, for the sum of six hundred pounds.

The walls exhibit a fearful increase of portraits, one or two of outrageous dimensions, and, worse still, reveal at every turn a most unfair distribution of the best places. A worse and more partial "Hanging Committee" has not been seen since the public began to take an interest in the management of the Academy. The members composing it should be known. The Committee consists of three

Academicians, and on this occasion Mr. Abraham Cooper, Mr. Herbert, and Mr. Lee were the three artists entrusted with this responsible and delicate duty. Their own pictures are, of course, in the very best places. This is not unnatural; but what shall we say of men who place on the floor Mr. Faed's "Mitherless Bairn," and hang all but out of sight Mr. Solomon's touching and carefully-painted "Contrast"?

Some of the best of our living artists are, unfortunately, either absentees or exhibitors of works on a very small scale. We allude to Sir Edwin Landseer, Mr. E. M. Ward, Mr. Frith, Mr. Frost, and Mr. Holman Hunt. Sir Edwin has not even a dog's head. Mr. Dyce is content with a very small study in the



"AN AVENUE IN HATFIELD PARK."—PAINTED BY H. JUTSUM.—FROM THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

style of early Italian art. The pre-Raphaelites are not in force; indeed, there seems to have been a kind of war against them; and critics who dislike their manner point with a sneer of triumph at their absence, and the revival of true art in the person of Mr. Leighton.

Notwithstanding the alleged inferiority of the present Exhibition over many that we can call to mind, we have endeavoured—and are still endeavouring—to represent some of the finest of its treasures by the art of engraving on wood. It is with pleasure we announce, therefore, that we have now a *Fine Arts Supplement* in active preparation. In this Supplement we shall engrave not only some of the choicest pictures in the Royal Academy Exhibition, but some of the very best examples of art to be seen in the Water-Colour Societies. We have had every assistance, and no expense or pains will be spared in making our Supplement worthy of the subject and ourselves. In the meantime we have chosen two pictures for this week's paper; two that will render no bad forecast of what is coming, but will supply at the same time marked examples of the injustice rendered to artists by the Hanging Committee. Mr. Jutsum's exquisite "Avenue in Hatfield-park" (No. 1396) is one of the hidden treasures of the Octagon Room; and Mr. Bottomley's carefully-finished "Waiting for the Guns" (No. 793) is one of the comic decorations of the room devoted to miniatures. Mr. Jutsum has painted an English landscape with a fine eye for the beauties of landscape nature; and Mr. Bottomley has caught an incident in English sporting life with the skill of an able artist and the fidelity of an eager sportsman.

EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS.

THE Fifty-first Exhibition of the Parent Society of Water-Colour Art is one of the very best that the society has had for many years. This was not, indeed, to have been expected, considering what losses by death the society has of late sustained. First, Dewint was removed from amongst us, and we missed his Lincolnshire rivers and delightful hayfields; then Prout was no longer a living master in the flesh, and we missed his quaint German market-places, filled with people dressed as quaintly: and now the winter of this year has carried Copley Fielding to Hove churchyard, and the air of the Sussex Downs is no longer to be inhaled in the little gallery in Pall-mall East.

There were yet other causes to lessen expectation. David Cox, that veteran in water-colour art, is no longer young; and last year his works were too blotchy to afford delight; while Joseph Nash, properly content with his well-earned reputation, was likely, we were told, to leave to younger men his delightful task of peopling Elizabethan interiors with cavaliers and ladies, chamberlains and chaplains, hounds and hawks, and the furniture and accessories true to the time represented.

If these were drawbacks to the success of the approaching entertainment, there were other inducements to make good the shortcomings of the year. Rumour spoke pleasantly of Mr. Topham's great picture, smacking deliciously of Andalusia. Mr. John Lewis, we were assured, would be found even more exquisitely finished in his details of desert life; and all conversant with art know to what height of perfection he had carried his skill in this particular. Carl Haag was to be in full force; Hunt as funny and green-grocery as ever; the Fripp would be found in each in his best mood. Gilbert was to exhibit more masterly grouping and invention than he had yet evinced. Dodgson and Duncan were more than up to their old water-mark; Jenkins was beyond himself; while almost a new candidate for high reputation would be seen in a Mr. Burton, of Nuremberg, who was up to the level, it was said, of Mr. Hagedorn, at the other gallery.

Nor has Rumour been found a false-tongued idler in the promises she put forth. A very pleasing Exhibition, indeed, is this the first of the new half-century of the society's existence. Nor do we feel, as we wander from wall to wall, from screen to screen, that there is any want of former favourites. Entering, as we did, thinking of eminent artists now no longer among us, the thought vanished immediately we commenced our survey, and we left the gallery, after a two hours' pleasant inspection, perfectly satisfied with what we had seen, and eager to communicate our delight to those we met.

As we shall very soon have better and ampler occasion to criticise in detail, and to illustrate our criticisms by the art of the engraver, we must be content, for the present, with this general recommendation of a very delightful Exhibition. Some of our old favourites are seen to great advantage. John Lewis delights in miraculous examples of well-placed, and therefore necessary, detail. His two small contributions from Egypt—"The Well in the Desert" (No. 135), and "The Greeting in the Desert"—are not only wonders in microscopic art, but exquisite examples of Egyptian manners and Egyptian scenery. How fine is Alfred Fripp with (No. 120) his "Last Days of Harvest: the Roman Campagna;" that view "In the Bay of Naples" by T. M. Richardson (No. 30) is dexterous and satisfactory: how very fine are some of the human heads contributed by Carl Haag; Mr. Jenkins's "Hopes and Fears" (No. 266) has aroused the curiosity of more than one publisher; the fortunate possessor of Mr. Duncan's "Harvest Moon" (No. 50) has been envied its possession by many tasteful collectors.

Critics of skill unite in praising Mr. Dodgson's "Beacon" (No. 137). Mr. Topham's "Andalusian Letter-Writer" (No. 141) attracts a thick semicircle of admirers. Mr. S. P. Jackson's "Summer Day on the Coast" (No. 186) is quitted with regret. Mr. Hunt's "Fruit" (No. 256) and his "Le Malade Imaginaire" are differently suggestive: schoolboys shudder before the cup of rhubarb, and smack their lips at the grapes and pears. Artists of skill delight in calling attention to his two wonderful representations of Franconian peasantry contributed by Mr. Burton (Nos. 181 and 239), and, while they censure the former as a little too red, they award to the latter the praise of being very near perfection. Nor must we omit that Mr. Collingwood Smith and Mr. Walter Goodall find and retain their own sensible circle of modest admirers.

FINE ARTS.

EXHIBITION OF THE FRENCH SCHOOL OF ART.

THE Second Exhibition of the French School of Art in London was opened on Monday last, at the Gallery, 121, Pall-Mall. Taking the collection as a whole, it possesses many points of extraordinary merit, and many features which might challenge comparison with any school in Europe. Indeed, its success in many respects is so distinguished and so indisputable as almost to inspire misgivings amongst the votaries and admirers of other schools, as to a decided supremacy in art existing in our friendly neighbours; and this we consider is true in respect to certain fields of art. Without attempting a comparison between the peculiar characteristics of the French school and those of other European schools, we may be allowed a few observations upon the distinguishing merits of the French School *per se*, and the fields in which we consider it exhibits shortcomings.

Those who know the subtle dramatic genius of the French nation will not be surprised to find that, in *pièces de circonstance*, "conversation pieces," and *genre* subjects generally, they take a decided lead of all competitors. Indeed, in the selection and treatment of their subjects in this agreeable branch of art, they almost surpass the Dutch and Flemish schools which originated it; their knowledge of character and of the *finess* of society being so great, that we become absolutely astonished at the number and variety of their subjects, and the extraordinary earnestness with which they depict comparatively trivial incidents. If in the technical execution they do not always come up to the masters of the Dutch and Flemish schools, the aspect of reality and life which they throw into their works in this class more than compensates for any shortcomings in that respect.

Whilst we admit the decided superiority of the French School of Art in subjects of the class we have mentioned;—that which embraces the genteel comedy of life; we are bound to state—as we stated last year in a notice upon the first exhibition of this School—that in what pertains to the higher emotions, the grander incidents of poetic creation, they fall below many contemporary schools. And this is in nowise surprising. The same genius that rules in Painting rules also in the sister Arts; and who will pretend that French Tragedy has ever stood upon a footing equivalent with that occupied by French Comedy and Vaudeville? We think it right to make these few general remarks touching the present Exhibition; because, whilst all will acknowledge that it presents subjects of the first order of merit, it must yet be admitted that where the success is most palpable and indisputable the subject is not of the highest class.

In works of the severer school the present Exhibition is very deficient; and those presented, the principal are tolerably well known to the art-public. Paul Delaroche's picture of "Lord Strafford Going to Execution," in the collection of the Duke of Sutherland, is generally familiar by means of the fine engraving published of it. We cannot help observing upon the picture itself that it does not improve upon the engraving. The subject is sombre; the treatment mannered; and, above all, the colouring is sombre and monotonous; dispensing with all the pigments which usually give warmth and life to a picture. This alone, in respect to such a subject, was an error fatal to success. The "Agony of Christ in the Garden," by the same artist, has many points of merit; but the expression of the face, though intensely painful, is not that which realises the sublime situation.

"The Judgment of Solomon," by Schopin, is a powerful composition in many respects; but it wants breadth and keeping. The figure of the mother of the dead child has always struck us as exaggerated in attitude and *effrontée* in aspect; and the colouring, from the preponderance of yellows, greys, and mixed tints introduced, is ungrateful.

La Bauchere's picture of "Luther, Melanchthon, Cruciger, and Pomeranus, Translating the Scriptures" is well known by the engraving published of it. It is a work of considerable merit: the expression of the faces being admirable but, as respects colour, more especially in the flesh tints, it is deficient.

Horace Vernet exhibits his grand Oriental style and Oriental atmosphere in his clever picture of "Joseph Sold by his Brethren." In "Victoria, a Peasant Girl of Albano," his pencil works in quite a different vein—the pure Italian; but with wonderful power, roundness, and success.

The "Francesca da Rimini" of Ingres, notwithstanding much merit of execution, must be pronounced comparatively a failure. Dante's heroine, as she receives the first warm kiss of her hapless lover, betrays none of that trembling agitation which the poet describes. On the contrary, she is cool, insipid, coquettish somewhat—certainly a very ordinary *intrigante*; whilst her hero is commonplace in character and extravagant in attitude. The colouring is crude, and much too lurid.

E. Dubufe has an affecting picture—well considered throughout, and well treated in all its points—of "The Family of the Absent Soldier at Morning Prayers." The scene is supposed to be in Normandy, and the family group kneel before the picture of their absent kinsman which is affixed on the wall above a religious emblem. The expression of all the faces is full of feeling, and the colouring is warm and tender.

As we shall have a future opportunity of returning to this Exhibition, we shall close our present notice with a brief reference to some of those works of the *genre* and domestic class, in which we find the artists of the French school so admirably successful. The great secret of their triumph perhaps rests in the fact that all appearance of effort is absent—repose rather than action being their study—and their pencil being rather suggestive than demonstrative. Foremost in merit in this happy vein is Eugene Fichel, who exhibits eleven pieces, the largest of which is "A Conversation in the Last Century," an admirable amateur concert group. "The Portrait" is an ingenious and pleasing subject—a lady painting a gentleman's portrait: the latter, sitting in a rather formal attitude, dressed in maroon velvet of the older fashion, evidently contemplates with admiration the intellectual features of the fair artist. "The Thief" and "the Reader" are also extremely beautiful.

Antoine Plassau, amongst nine contributions, has, what may be pronounced a gem, the "Message;" representing a young lady sealing a letter, whilst her attendant stands respectfully and with demure expression beside her, prepared to go on her errand.

Victor Chatel exhibits only one piece, a very small one, but how full of spirit and nice humour! It is entitled the "Connoisseurs;" and represents, with their backs to us, a pair of *cognoscenti* expatiating upon the merits of a cabinet picture, which they are eagerly taking down from a wall.

Edouard Frere has half a dozen exhibits, of which the "Cut Finger" may be especially lauded for its telling effect, without the slightest obtrusion of exaggeration.

François Bizard holds a very distinguished position amongst his brother artists; being remarkable alike for the versatility of his talent and the dramatic action which he throws into his pictures. The "Pirates" is a stirring scene on the deck of a pirate vessel, at the moment of preparing for action and plunder, which it would be impossible for any description to do justice to. The "Poste Restante," and the "Newly Decorated; or, Pride Knows no Danger," are comic, almost to extravagance; whilst "Henri IV. and Fleurette" is a sentimental subject, charming for its simplicity and genial treatment.

WATER-COLOUR PICTURES BY CARL WERNER.—M. Carl Werner, an artist of established reputation and unquestionable merit, has now on private view, by ticket, a collection of his works, at 49, Pall-mall. We had the pleasure of inspecting the collection the other day, and were certainly astonished and gratified at the evidence they afforded of the extent of the capabilities of the limner's art. Residing and working chiefly in Rome and Venice, it is natural that the artist's subjects should be chosen from those localities; but it is a high testimony to his genius that, in producing them, he has infused them with all the glittering atmospheric brightness which surrounds the objects themselves, and which is not to be found in less favoured lands. Under these circumstances his fine views become absolute realities, in contemplation of which the mind willingly travels to the sites they represent. To this must be added that M. Werner's taste for art and architectural remains is very fine; and that in the treatment of every pillar and capital, remains of ancient grandeur, he evinces an appreciating love for his subject. In figure subjects, also, M. Werner is extremely happy. Amongst many exhibited, we noticed particularly a remarkably clever picture of the "Annual Festival of the Artists in Rome on the 1st of May"—a scene introducing innumerable figures, most of them portraits, engaged in a mimic ceremonial, in which the comic prevails. Of a different character, but no less able in the treatment, is the picture of "Venetian Bravos" in the usual place of resort, round the Column of St. Januarius, at Venice. We should hardly have expected, before we saw it, that so much could have been done in intensity of effect through the medium of water-colours. Most of the pictures exhibited—eighty in number—have been already sold; but they will repay the careful inspection of those who take interest in the progress of art.

BISHOP'S "EVENING BELLS."

(WRITTEN ON HEARING THEM ON THE NIGHT OF HIS DECEASE.)

As sun-rays in the chilling wind,
The liquid peals came faint but clear,
An echo of immortal mind,
By memory cherished dear.

As spirit roving in its might,
To burst its shackles vain,
About to take its last long flight,
Was gladdened once again,

By those frail laurels hardly won,
Yea, oft too dearly bought,
His soul was cheer'd as o'er it shone
The tribute Genius sought.

Then slowly wending back to days
When first the genial flame
Inspir'd his sweetest melodies,
They heard those bells again.

The tones which spoke of youth and home,
Of zeal's expectant hours,

When Inspiration, taught by truth,
Expanded all his pow'rs,

And kindled into light the flame
That burn'd in manhood's prime—

May 8th, 1855.

That bid him tune the well-strung lyre,
Apollo's lay divine.

Now on the margin of death's stream,
Where full the cold floods roll,
His boyhood's chime again at e'en
Came sweetly o'er the soul.

We listen'd; but the sounds had caught
The fading earthly hue;

With something, too, of heaven-fraught
That spoke a language true.

Which bid him leave the weary maze
Of this hard-trodden strand;

As upward then he fix'd his gaze,
To join the spirit hand.

No toiling more! He, too, has left
For that mysterious shore,

Where neither hope nor sighs avail—
A labourer here no more.

We give the tear to genius due,
The tribute of undying worth,

And bid a kindred spirit hail
That love-land of immortal birth

CECILIA MARY MEARES.

MUSIC.

LABLACHE has reappeared at the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA. He was welcomed on Saturday evening last by a crowded audience with every demonstration of the most cordial interest. The Queen and Prince Albert were present, and the Royal pair were observed to join warmly in the general applause. Her Majesty has always shown much regard for the illustrious veteran, to whose instructions she owes much of her proficiency in music and her taste and skill as a vocal performer. He appeared in his old and favourite character of *Dulcamara*, the quack-doctor, in the "Elisir d'Amore," in which he used of yore to shake the sides of the audiences at Her Majesty's Theatre. This was his first appearance in it on the boards of the Royal Italian Opera; the *Dulcamara* of this theatre having hitherto been Ronconi, who has not come to England this season. Nothing can be more unlike than the *readings* of the character as given by these two celebrated artists, and yet both are admirable. Ronconi's quack seems a literal copy of the quack of ordinary life; he is the very vagabond—shabby, sharp, cunning, and impudent—whom we can see gulling the bunglings out of their pence at any English country fair. Lablache's charlatan is more of an ideal personage, and of a much more pleasant and genial description. We are inclined, too, to think that his view of the character is that which is intended by the dramatist; for *Doctor Dulcamara* is not a mere strolling knave—he is a respectable person in his way—a man of substance, looked up to by the vulgar with the respect due to his station and magnificence, and admitted to the intimate society and confidence of the principal persons of the drama, who are guided and controlled by his influence. There is scarcely upon the stage a bit of more truthful and genuine comedy than Lablache's *Dulcamara*. On Saturday night he acted the part with all his usual good-humoured gaiety; but there was an evident falling off in his vocal powers, which it pained us to observe. His magnificent organ had lost much of its resonance and volume, and he brought out his high notes with visible effort. We trust, however, that this was only the temporary effect of the ungenial weather; and this seems the more likely from the circumstance that, on Tuesday, when he was to have repeated the part, he was unable to sing, owing to hoarseness. After the heavy losses our musical stage has suffered, we cannot afford to lose Lablache also; and we cling to the belief that he will yet be spared to us for a good long time to come. The "Elisir d'Amore" is admirably cast this season; with Bosio as *Adina*, Gardoni as *Nemorino*, Graziani as *Belcore*, and Lablache as *Dulcamara*, it forms as gay and delightful an entertainment as the Italian comic stage can possibly afford.

The "Judgment of Solomon," by Schopin, is a powerful composition in many respects; but it wants breadth and keeping. The figure of the mother of the dead child has always struck us as exaggerated in attitude and *effrontée* in aspect; and the colouring, from the preponderance of yellows, greys, and mixed tints introduced, is ungrateful.

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The first great novelty of the season—the "Trovatore" of Verdi—was produced on Thursday. Of this celebrated opera—its merits as a drama and a musical work, its performance, and its reception by the English public—we shall have occasion to speak fully next week.

THE ROYAL OPERA at Drury-lane goes on with well-deserved success. Not only the company, but the whole arrangements of the theatre are much superior to what they were last year. The prima donna, Madame Gassier—would be an ornament to the greatest Opera-house in Europe. She is an intelligent, animated, and graceful comedian, and a singer of the very highest order. Her husband is a good actor, and an admirable baritone singer; Bettini is a light and agreeable tenor; and Susini, with a powerful bass voice, possesses considerable dramatic talent. The "Sonnambula," the "Barbiere di Siviglia," and "Duo Pasquale," have been got up, and performed to crowded houses, with a completeness and excellence sufficient to gratify the most fastidious taste.

This establishment has gained such a hold of the public favour, that it is sure to prosper if it keep within its means, and do not attempt too much. In the first place, we hope the managers will confine themselves to Italian Opera, and not again commit the fatal mistake of having a German company as well; and, in the next place, that they will confine themselves to *comic* opera, and eschew altogether the more ambitious productions of the Italian stage. If they have the good judgment to follow this prudent course they will do well. If not, they will only split upon the rock which, by this time, they ought to have learned to avoid.

THE BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL—the greatest provincial music-meeting in England, is fixed to be held on the four last days of August next. Its arrangements are already in a state of considerable forwardness, and are on a scale of magnitude equal to those of the greatest Festivals of former years. As formerly, the list of vocal and instrumental performers will include the highest talent that Europe can produce; and it is understood that more than one new and original work of great interest will be produced. The Birmingham Festival has peculiar claims to public attention and support. For three quarters of a century it has been the main support of one of the greatest benevolent institutions in England, the "Old Hospital" of Birmingham; an institution which, since it was opened in 1779, has ministered to the medical and surgical necessities of nearly 400,000 persons, of whom 90,000 have been in-patients. In the course of the last fifty-six years the hospital has been benefited by the music meetings to the extent of £66,460; and the last festival alone (in 1852) yielded to the hospital no less a sum than £4704. The great increase of the working population is rendering the demands upon this noble charity more and more heavy, and it is upon the expected proceeds of the approaching festival that reliance is placed for the means of meeting those demands.

1. THE ABSENT SOLDIER. Song. Written by MRS. F. VALIANT, and composed by LOUISA M. B. VALIANT.—2. THE STARS OF HEAVEN. Ballad. By the same Author and Composer. Ollivier.

Above and beyond the claims which these songs possess on the score of graceful poetry, wedded to pleasing and appropriate music, the pieces before us possess an interest that must recommend them to all who have hearts accessible to "melting charity," and sympathies for the less fortunate of their fellow-creatures. The ladies to whom we owe these pretty exercitations for the piano and voice have consecrated their talents, and the produce which the patronage of the public may accord them, to two excellent societies: the first, the "Auxiliary City Mission;" the second, the "Southwark Ragged Schools." The "Absent Soldier" is a pathetic and smoothly-flowing melody, set in the key F Major, with a judicious introduction of an accidental natural A repeated (B B), passing into the normal B flat. The second composition, the "Stars of Heaven," is an easy ballad of moderate compass, and well deserves to become a drawing-room favourite. The verses are sweet, effective, and far above the namby-pamby, which too frequently is the besetting sin of commonplace song-writers.

THE THEATRES, &c.

HAYMARKET.—Miss Cushman on Friday achieved a decided triumph in the part of *Tisbe*, "the Actress of Padua," and heroine of a new version of Victor Hugo's "Angelo, Tyrant de Padone." A triumph achieved in a drama so repulsive to the tone of morality in this country is no small matter, and may be accepted as a test of histrionic genius. The design of the French writer in this piece was to strip off the mask from respectability, and to degrade it in the presence of the social pariah, as an example of vice made worse by hypocrisy; and thus the

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE ORIGIN OF CHESS.

BY DR. DUNCAN FORBES.

CHAPTER X, AND LAST.—THEORY AND PRACTICE OF THE SHATRANJ.

SECTION 3RD.—ON END-GAMES AND POSITIONS DRAWN BY FORCE.

WE have seen in the last section that in the Shatranj a player lost the game, not only by receiving a checkmate, but by the mere circumstance of his being stripped of all his forces, while his adversary had any, however small, remaining. Even with this licence, we find that in the Oriental game the probabilities in favour of its ending in a draw were still very considerable; and this fact brings to light one of its defects or anomalies—proving at the same time that Chess, like all human inventions, ever has been susceptible of progressive improvement. As a ludicrous instance of inconsistency in the Medieval Game, I may mention that it sometimes ended in a draw, not from an absolute equality of forces, or anything near it; but owing to the peculiar powers and limited range of some of the pieces, these being such that they could not encounter their adversaries. For example, let us suppose (as the books have it) that White remains with his King and a Bishop only; and that Black has, on his side, his King, his two Bishops, and five Queens—the latter all running on a different colour from that of White's Bishop. Well, here the Black has a numerical force equal to two Rooks and a Knight against a Bishop, which last is valued only as one quarter of a Rook;—and yet, notwithstanding all this decided superiority, the Black can only draw the game. The White has merely to place his King on some square (near the centre, if possible) of a different colour from that of the adverse Queens, and not within the range of the adverse Bishop of that colour, and then the solitary White Bishop will draw the game by hopping round his own King, setting all pursuit at defiance. Now this anomaly becomes still more glaring when we consider that if, instead of a Bishop, White had a Rook or a Knight, he would have lost the game in the above instance.

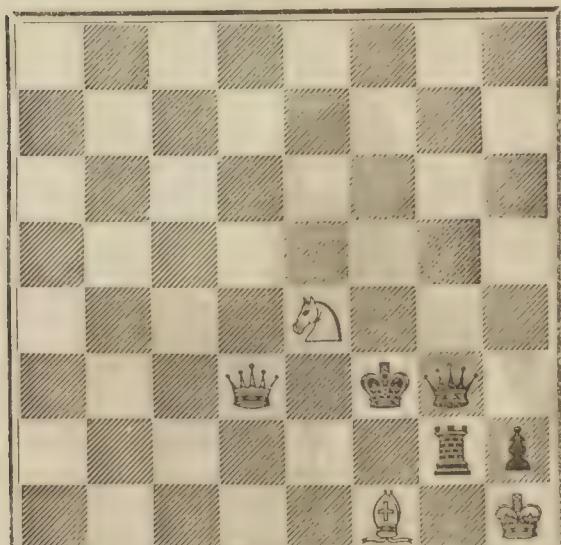
In the Oriental MSS. the laws and decisions laid down with respect to drawn games are very numerous; and to detail them in these hasty sketches would occupy too much space and time. It is probable that, as the people of the East have always had a great reverence for authority, when the game resulted in any of the situations declared by the old masters as drawn, the higher classes of players would in that instance courteously abandon it as such. In the case of those end-games in which one of the parties might win, though with great difficulty—such, for example, as our Rook and Bishop against Rook—I have nowhere been able to discover that the winning player was restricted to a limited number of moves, as with us. One would think that some such rule would be expedient, unless we suppose that in this case also the players submitted to the authority of the books.

The laws respecting drawn games, as given in the MSS., seem to have anticipated the existence of a plurality of Queens, averaging from two to five on either side. The joint power of the Queens was considerably modified from the circumstance of their being all of the same colour, or of some of them running on black squares and the rest on white. When the Queens ran on the same colour (as we would say) they were said by the Muslims to be "Muwāfiq," i.e., "concordant or similar;" and when on different colours they were said to be "Mukhāfiq," antagonistic or dissimilar." The books lay down several rules by the aid of which a player may know whether a pawn, on queening, may prove to be similar or dissimilar to such Queen or Queens as he may already have on the board. Now this fact affords us the clearest possible proof that the Oriental board was not chequered with two colours till at least a comparatively recent period. Had the board been chequered (and the wonder is that it should not have been so), it would be seen at once, without any recourse to rules or calculation, whether the newly-made Queen should prove "Muwāfiq," or "Mukhāfiq." I, therefore, translate the term "Muwāfiq," as used in Chess, to denote "of the same colour;" and "Mukhāfiq," "of a different colour," which rendering, if not strictly literal, has the merit of being correct and intelligible.

Amidst the decisions arrived at by the wise men of the East, with respect to such end-games as are drawn or won, there is only one which exactly agrees with ours, and that is "that a Rook against a Knight is a drawn game in general." A Rook against any piece or Pawn besides the Knight generally wins, and so does a Knight very often against a Bishop or a Queen or a Pawn. A Bishop or a Queen is a draw against a Pawn—the latter being, of course, supposed to be supported by his King. A Rook and Queen against a Knight and Queen make a drawn game; but if the Queens run on different colours, he who has the Rook wins if he play carefully, for otherwise a game won by its nature may end in a draw; and also a game naturally drawn may, through carelessness, be lost. A Rook and Bishop can only draw against two Queens of the same colour; but a Rook with two Bishops, in such cases, wins. Four Queens, provided two of them run on white squares and the other two on black, win against a Rook; but if three of the Queens be of the same colour and the other different, the Rook draws, even if one or both of the Bishops be on the side of the Queens. This last situation, however, is one of extreme difficulty. Two Rooks can only draw against a Rook and Knight; but, if on each side there be a Bishop in addition, he who has the two Rooks will win.

The following positions are so difficult that the greatest masters have been unable to decide whether they be won or drawn, viz.: A Knight and two Queens of the same colour, against a Knight and one Queen of a different colour from that of the adverse Queens is, according to some, a won game, while others of very high authority declare it a draw. Two Rooks and a Bishop against a Knight, a Queen, and a Bishop may win but many eminent players have pronounced it a draw. It is yet undecided whether a Rook and two Queens of the same colour against the two Knights and two Bishops be a won or a drawn game. I need not adduce more instances of this kind; enough has been stated in this chapter to show the nature of the openings and end-games of the Shatranj; and I now conclude these hasty sketches by an example of a drawn game from MS. 16,856, fol. 44 A (White to play and draw):—

BLACK.



WHITE.

SOLUTION.—1st. White Kt to K. Kt 5th (check); Black K to his B 7th, for if he moves anywhere else he loses R. 2nd. White Kt returns checking. If Black King returns to his B 6th, then Kt checks as before, and if this continues, the game is drawn by perpetual check. Let us suppose then, that at his second move Black K takes B, then, 3rd, White Q to K 2nd, checking. Now Black must take Q with R, as his best. 4th. White Kt takes Q, attacking K and R, which coup the Orientals call a "Shāh-Rukh," and then the game is clearly drawn. It is needless to follow any other course that Black King might adopt as his third move;—for instance, should he take Q with his K, leaving the R un-defended, the White K would take R, and ultimately win.

It was my intention to have drawn up a few chapters more on Oriental Chess, but I am prevented by other occupations from doing the subject (which is by no means exhausted) that degree of justice which I think it deserves; and I am, besides, unwilling any longer to retard the disquisition by Sir Frederic Madden and Mr. Staunton upon the Introduction and Progress of Chess in Europe. The matters which I leave untouched are—1st, a chapter on the "Art of Playing without Seeing the Board," which is given very full in one of the MSS., and is remarkable from its close resemblance to that given by Ruy Lopez; 2nd, a full account of the "Great Chess," as played at the Barbaric Court of Samarcand in the last half of the fourteenth century; 3rd, an attempt to trace the course of the Shatranj from Persia to Arabia and the Byzantine Empire; lastly, a brief account of Chess as played at the present time in various Asiatic regions. For the accomplishment of this last task, however, my materials are very scanty; and I should like to see the research undertaken by some of our countrymen resident in the East, who must necessarily possess better means of information.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NEOPHYTE.—Both are mistaken. The famous smothered check-mate, absurdly entitled "Phildor's Legacy," was known at least three hundred years before it was attributed to Phildor. This was shown long ago, and the masterpiece traced back to Damiano (1512). But the truth is, Damiano had no more to do with its invention than Phildor. As a proof of which we now give the position as it appears in the rare and almost inaccessible work by Lucena (1495):—White—K at Q 5th, R at K 6th, Kt at K 5th. Black—K at K 1st, Q at Q 6th, R at Q Kt 5th, P's at K Kt 2nd and K R 2nd.—White to play and mate in five moves.

EDMUND T., OXFORD.—Mate cannot be effected in the way you suggest. Look at the Problem once more.

C. F. H.—It shall have prompt attention.

BOOKWORM.—The question, "Who was the personage to whom Greco dedicated his MS.?" has already occupied the consideration of three or four of the most eminent scholars in Chess literature. We shall endeavour to find room for a few words upon the subject next week.

A. T., St. John's.—To ensure an answer the same week, you must write very early. STANHOPE.—Your Solution of Mr. Bolton's Problem and that by "A. Shagird" are correct.

V. J. d. L.—Received with thanks. We shall be happy to see the remainder of the article when you can conveniently send it.

TREVOR, M.D., MERRILLES.—The annual meeting of the Northern and Midland Counties Chess Association, under the Presidency of Lord Lyttelton, is definitely fixed to be held at Leamington on the 26th, 27th, and 28th of June. For full particulars apply by letter to the Hon. Secretary, the Rev. W. Temple.

KINGFISHER.—1. No; not yet in the first class, though he bids fair to reach that eminence ere long. 2. Your Solution is defective.

W. C. C.—1. They shall be reported on next week. 2. The Solutions are correct.

F. H. G., Aix-la-Chapelle.—A private communication was forwarded ten days back. We hope it reaches you safely.

E. A. T., M., L.—Ranked for his many valuable contributions, and is particularly requested to address all future communications to the office of this journal, instead of directing them to Paternoster-row.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 582, by D. G. Beidam, Drumlanrig, Pedagogue, Lex, R. V., N. B., A. T., E. H., J. R., Glasgow, are correct.

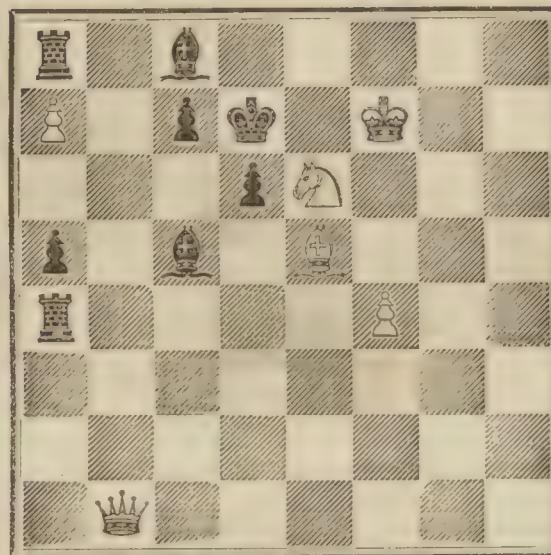
SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 584, by Arnold, Hayliss, Servitor; S. J., Falmouth; Moncrieff, C. W. T., G. F., Oriental, Miles, A. B. C.; J., Stonehouse; E. H., Derevon, are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 585, by J. A. M., Ydaway, Derevon; Mus. Doc., Oxon; E. Addison; J. P., Guernsey; T. Y., Bishop Middleham; D. D., Trevor, Templar; A. Z.; J., Stonehouse; Arty, W. W. C., are correct. All others are wrong.

PROBLEM NO. 586.

By an Amateur of the United States.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in five moves.

The following Game occurs in a Match by Correspondence now pending between the HERMES CHESS-CLUB, OXFORD, and the TRINITY COLLEGE CHESS-CLUB, CAMBRIDGE.

(Petroff's Defence to the K Kt Opening.)

WHITE (Oxford). BLACK (Camb.). WHITE (Oxford). BLACK (Camb.).
 1. P to K 4th P to K 4th 17. B to K Kt 5th (f) 22. K R to K B 4th P to K B 4th (i)
 2. K Kt to K B 3rd K Kt to K B 3rd 18. Q R to Q B sq Q to Q Kt sq 23. Q R to Q B 6th P to K B 6th (i)
 3. Kt takes P (a) P to Q 3rd 19. B to K 3rd Kt takes B 24. K R to K B 3rd P to K B 3rd (ch)
 4. Kt to K B 3rd Kt takes P 20. P takes K (h) B takes Kt 25. Q to K B 2nd P to K B 5th (ch)
 5. Q Kt to Q B 3rd Kt to K B 3rd 21. P takes B Q takes P 26. K to Kt sq P to K B 5th
 (b) 22. K R to K B 4th P to K B 4th 27. K to Kt sq P to K B 5th
 6. P to Q 4th P to Q 4th 28. Q R to Q B 7th P takes K P to K B 4th
 7. K B to Q 2nd K B to Q 3rd 29. K R takes P on B to K B 4th
 8. Castles Castles 30. R takes R R takes R
 9. B to K 5th B to K 3rd 31. K R to K B 4th P to K B 4th (ch)
 10. Q to her 2nd P to Q Kt 3rd 32. K to Kt sq P to K B 5th
 11. Q Kt to K 2nd P to Q B 4th 33. Q R to Q B 2nd P takes K P to K B 5th
 12. P to Q B 3rd (c) Q Kt to Q B 2nd 34. Q R to Q B 7th P takes K P to K B 4th
 13. Q Kt to K Kt 3rd Q to Q B 2nd 35. R takes R R takes R
 14. K Kt to K 5th (d) P takes P 36. Q Kt takes Kt (e) 30. R takes R R takes R
 15. P takes P Q Kt takes Kt
 And Oxford resigns.

(An interesting variation, perhaps the most so this somewhat triste débâcle admits, arises from White now playing 3. K B to Q B 4th, when the game proceeds thus:—

3. K B to Q B 4th Kt takes K P 5. Q P takes Kt, &c.

4. Q Kt to Q B 3rd Kt takes Kt

(b) The leading authorities recommend 5. P to Q 4th as the best move.

(c) Attack is often the best defence; and we believe, although we always suggest a variation in a correspondence game with some diffidence, the Oxoniens would have improved their own or have impaired their opponents' position by advancing this Pawn a step further. For suppose,

12. P to Q B 4th Q Kt to Q 2nd

(This seems to be their best reply. If they take the Q B Pawn, White may win the exchange, by first taking off the Kt, and then playing K B to Q 4th.)

13. Q P takes Q B P takes P; or 15. Q takes B P to Q 5th

14. Q Kt to K B 4th K B takes Kt (best) 16. Q to K R 3rd P to K R 3rd

(White may also play K R to K sq first, in either way having a powerful attack.)

15. P takes P Kt takes P 17. Q takes P And Black cannot save the game.

(*) 13. Q Kt takes P 14. Q B takes P 15. B takes K Kt P takes D

(If Q takes B, White can then take the K R P (ch), and afterwards capture their adversaries' Bishop.)

16. B to K B 5th (Threatening to win by playing Q to K R 6th next move.)

17. Q B to K 3rd (best) 18. K Kt takes B Kt to K 3rd

17. Q Kt to Q 2nd 19. Q R to K 2nd 20. Q to K R 6th B to K 4th

(If they play this Bishop to K B 5th, White can take K B P with their Queen, and win easily.)

21. Q R to Q sq 19. Q R to Q 2nd (Q if they capture the Q Kt it costs their Queen at least.)

22. Q R to Q 3rd, and Black has no resource.

(d) Very cleverly conceived.

(e) Had they taken with the Bishop instead, the following interesting moves would probably have occurred:—

15. B takes Kt 16. P takes B Q Kt takes P (Taking with the Queen would have involved the loss of an officer, ex gr.:-)

16. P takes B Q Kt takes P 17. Q B to K B 4th K Kt to K 5th (best)

17. Q B takes K Kt takes B Kt to K 5th (best)

18. K B P takes B Kt to K 5th (best)

19. P to K 3rd Q Kt to K 5th (best)

20. P takes Kt K to R sq. &c., &c.

(f) An ingenious counter-move, and especially noticeable, because it constitutes the turning-point of the game.

(g) The consequences of sacrificing the Bishop were, no doubt, maturely considered, and the Oxford committee had most probably good reasons for rejecting that move. As far as our own examination of the position goes, however, we must confess it appears to us that the sacrifice of the Bishop was a less evil than retreating him. In proof of this we beg to submit the following train of play as the probable result of the former and more enterprising course:—

17. B takes K Kt P takes Kt B takes Kt

(Have they any Letter move? If they take the Bishop at once, White may first give check with the Kt to K B 5th, forcing the King to fall back to his K 5th, and then play P to K B 3rd, winning the Kt, and having afterwards at least as strong a game as Black has. So also if they (Black), instead of taking the Kt, play Bishop to K B 5th, attacking the Queen, White has a good reply in Bishop to K 5th, and would come out of the muddle the winner of a Pawn.)

18. K B P takes B K takes B

19. P to K 3rd Q takes K P

20. P takes Kt Q takes P

(If they take this Pawn with the Bishop, White can win a Pawn by merely playing—Q to K 5th (ch) and then K R to K B 3rd.)

21. K R to K B 4th Q to K R 4th.

(If Q to K Kt 6th, White will win a Pawn, and acquire a great advantage in position, by playing B to K B 5th.)

22. Q R to K B sq.

(And notwithstanding their lost Pawn we prefer White's game.)

(h) They would have forfeited the exchange had they taken with their Queen.

(i) By this time White has lost all chance, and the game has lost all interest.

* Oddly enough, should Black attempt to defend forward P to K R 4th, he would lose his Queen or be mated in three moves.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.—Rectories: The Rev. G. E. Alexander, to Woodward-cum-Membrie, near Daventry; Rev. W. B. Flower, to Crawley, Sussex; Rev. C. A. Griffith, to Berwick St. John, Wiltshire. Vicarages: The Rev. N. P. E. Lathbury, to Godmanchester, near Huntingdon; Rev. W. B. Grenside, to Melling, near Lancaster; Rev. H. W. P. Richards, to Isleworth. Incumbencies: The Rev. T. Owen, to Christ Church, Leicester; Rev. F. Rose, to Daulking, near Faringdon.



OPENING OF A TUMULUS AT ST. WEONARDS, HEREFORDSHIRE.

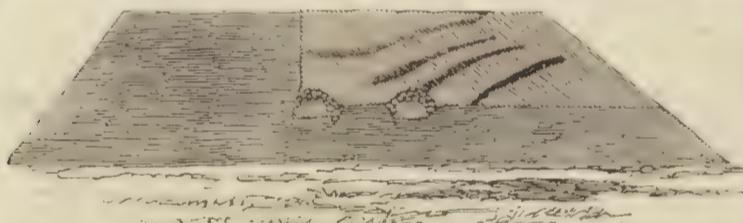
curious and unexpected manner, by the layers of different sorts of earth which had fallen into the hands of the men who had raised it. When the small mounds roofed with stones had been raised over the deposits of ashes, a circular embankment was first made round the whole, and from this embankment the workmen filled up the interior inwards to the centre. A little way from the outside is seen a dark streak, which defines with tolerable accuracy the form of the first embankment. This is earth of a different kind from that of the mass of the tumulus, and no doubt lies as it was thrown down the inner side of the first bank (perhaps from bas-

same kind, on the Border. The antiquary and the historian are therefore indebted to Mr. Mynors for having set at rest a *vezata questio*. Unfortunately, no relics were discovered, to assist us in determining the people by whom this monument was erected. It belongs, however, evidently to that class which, as they bear no resemblance to anything known to have been made subsequently to Roman times, and as they present no marks of a decidedly Roman character, have been generally classed together as ancient British. Perhaps we may consider it as covering the last remains of some great Border chieftain of the earlier period of the Roman occupation of Britain. It is worthy of being recorded that Roman coins have been found in the churchyard of St. Weonards, which are now in the possession of Mr. Mynors, on whose ancient and picturesque mansion in the valley below this mound looks down. Treago is an early castellated mansion, probably of the fourteenth century, if not a century older, with a small round tower at each corner, and formerly inclosing a little court. When its present excellent and worthy proprietor fitted it up for a modern residence, it was necessary to make great alterations in the interior, but he has preserved as much as possible of the external appearance. Here the ancient family of Mynors has been situated since a period almost contemporary with the Conqueror, in whose train its founder is said to have come to this country; while branches of the same family became owners of the manor of Burghill, in Herefordshire, and of Westbury, in Gloucestershire. John de Miners, of Treago, was Sheriff of Herefordshire in the 16th Henry III.; and in his old age he was constituted by Edward II. keeper of the Castle of St. Briavels, and of the forest of Dean. In the course of several generations, his descendants became connected directly, or by alliance, with nearly all the great Border families; and the present owner of these estates is the representative not only of the Mynors, but of the still more illustrious house of the Baskervilles, which claims direct descent from the Dukes of Normandy.

These various discoveries are so far satisfactory that they leave no further room for doubt—first, that the mound at St. Weonards is artificial; and, secondly, that it is a sepulchral monument:—and there is now every reason for believing that this is the case with all the other mounds of the

the massive broach spire, with suitable lucarnes, or spire-lights, and surrounded with a suitable wrought-iron vane.

Internally the Church will be covered with a roof of one span (it being desired that no pillars or internal supports should exist), the principal timbers stopping upon moulded and carved stone brackets. The roofs will be open, with ceiling between the rafters, and boarding to receive the slates. The chancel arch will be richly moulded. The pulpit and desk will be of carved oak, and the font of Caen stone, richly carved. The walls are to be built of stock bricks, faced with Kentish rag-stone; and



SECTION OF TUMULUS.

kets). Other similar streaks, but not quite so distinctly marked, are repeated as we proceed towards the centre; and, when the mound was more nearly completed, the labourers had made use of a large quantity of loose stones and rubble, which forms a very distinctly-marked layer, like a wide but shallow basin.

These various discoveries are so far satisfactory that they leave no further room for doubt—first, that the mound at St. Weonards is artificial; and, secondly, that it is a sepulchral monument:—and there is now every reason for believing that this is the case with all the other mounds of the

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, TULSE-HILL, NORWOOD.

FOR some time the inhabitants of Tulse-hill and vicinity have greatly felt the want of church accommodation; to provide which a public subscription has been opened, and the first stone of a new edifice was laid on Thursday week.

Sir Charles Decimus Crosley, Sheriff of London and Middlesex, having kindly undertaken to lay the stone, arrived on the ground at two o'clock, accompanied by the Rev. S. Bridge, Chaplain to the Sheriff; Mr. A. Crosley, Under-Sheriff; and a large number of ladies and gentlemen interested in the cause. The worthy Knight was received by the Committee appointed to carry out the undertaking.

The proceedings commenced with prayers, delivered by the Rev. J. W. Watson, M.A., the newly-appointed Minister; after which the stone was lowered, and Sir Charles having spread the mortar, and placed the stone in its position, completed the ceremony.

After an eloquent address from the Rev. Mr. Watson, the Doxology was admirably sung by the pupils of the Westmoreland schools.

The company then adjourned to a temporary building, where they partook of an excellent déjeuner; after which Mr. Nicholson, in eloquent terms, proposed the "Health of Sir Charles Crosley," passing a high eulogium on that gentleman. Sir C. Crosley returned thanks; and, in conclusion, passed a high compliment on their new pastor (the Rev. Mr. Watson), and congratulated those present upon having obtained his services.

After the toasts of "The Pastor," "The Committee," &c., Mr. E. L. Hayward, the hon. secretary, announced the subscriptions amounting to £500, expressing a hope and assurance that the sum still required (£1000) would, through their united exertions among their friends, be soon realised. The company then retired.

The Church—which is in the Early Geometric Decorated style—consists of chancel, with apsidal end; nave, north and south transepts; tower and spire at the north-west angle of the north transept—spire 88 feet high.

The Church is designed to seat 1000 adults. An organ-gallery is also provided at the west-end. The principal entrance will be on the north side, through the tower door, which will be divided by a stone shaft into two compartments, with heads of tracery, the intermediate spandril being filled with carved diaperwork.

The windows are richly tracered, each being a distinct and original design. The prevailing form adopted in all the tracery is the trefoil, the church being dedicated to the Holy Trinity. The belfry of the tower contains on each side three deeply-moulded and recessed windows of one light, the heads being trefoiled, and the hollow mouldings in jambs-heads being filled with the dogtooth ornament.

From an effective cornice, having carved gargoyles at the angles, rises



NEW CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, TULSE-HILL, NORWOOD.

all the dressed masonry will be Corsham-down Bath stone. The foundations are concreted throughout. The parsonage will be of the Early Domestic English style.

The total cost of both Church and parsonage, including complete fittings, drainage, fencing, warm water apparatus, gas lighting, and every expense, will be £7500. Taking into consideration the great size, substantial workmanship, and architectural pretensions of the Church and parsonage, and the distance from town, this will probably be the cheapest work of the kind ever erected in the neighbourhood of London.

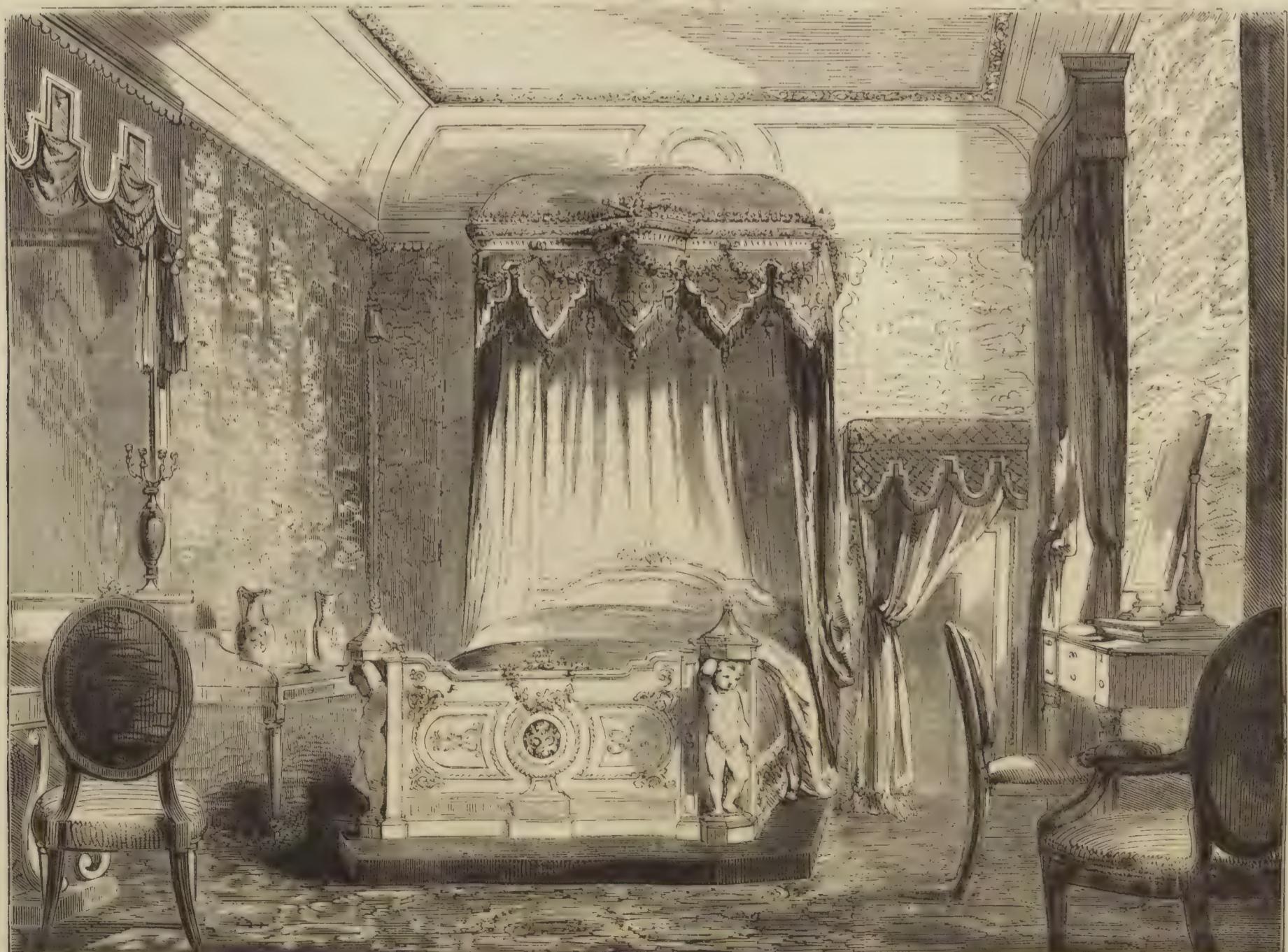
The whole has been designed by, and is being carried out under the superintendence of Mr. Thomas D. Barry, of 16, Lincoln's-inn-fields, and Liverpool.



THE OLD TOWN-HALL, LEOMINSTER.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)



THE EMPEROR'S RECEPTION-ROOM (VANDYKE GALLERY), WINDSOR CASTLE.



THE STATE BED-ROOM, BUCKINGHAM PALACE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



TOILET-TABLE AT WINDSOR CASTLE



TOILET-TABLE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

THE IMPERIAL APARTMENTS AT WINDSOR CASTLE AND BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

THE EMPEROR'S RECEPTION-ROOM, WINDSOR CASTLE.

This apartment (known to the public as the Vandyke-room) from the beautiful collection of pictures by that celebrated master which it contains, was handsomely refurnished for the Imperial visit. The chairs and couches are of white and gold, covered with green and gold damask. The curtains are of the same material, richly trimmed. The handsome pier-tables, with marble slabs, behind which and above rise the pier-glasses; some cabinets of exquisite workmanship stand on the site opposite the windows. Three very elegant chandeliers, of cut glass, are suspended from the ceiling. The face of the whole apartment is changed; and but for the picture of Charles I. on horseback, a visitor could scarcely recognise the room. The carpet is of the richest velvet pile, and of a crimson ground, with a small pattern of oak branches placed in trellis fashion; in the centre of which is the garter surrounding a rose. Mr. Crace, of Wigmore-street, has the chief management of the redecoration here, as also in the other apartments.

THE STATE BED-ROOM, BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

This is situated on the same line of building as the Drawing-room. It is a neat apartment, newly-decorated and rehung with blue Lyons silk. The glass over the mantelpiece and mantel are draped with the same material, in the French style. The doors are hung with portières. The curtains are of the same material. The cornices are tufted, and covered with the same silk, richly mounted. The under curtains, as well as linings, are of white Gros de Naples. The furniture covered with rich rose-coloured silk. The cabinets, of elegant form and make, are of satin-wood, beautifully inlaid, and decorated with ormolu. The tables are of the same beautiful description. The carpet is of the richest velvet pile, of dark chocolate ground inclining to purple.

TOILET-TABLE AT WINDSOR CASTLE.

This table is covered with fine Honiton lace hanging in festoons, and looped up near the top with gold cord and tassels: the festoons have each a deep border; the border or flounce at the bottom of the table is nearly six inches deep, and very rich. The under covering of the table is of white satin. The glass, of oval form, is encircled by a moulding of pretty design—somewhat in the Louis Quatorze style—surmounted by the initial of the Empress and a crown; from this hangs a veil of beautiful lace, looped up so as to display the glass: it was manufactured at Mr. Cayley's, of Windsor.

TOILET-TABLE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

The next object of a similar kind which we represent is the Toilet-table of the Empress's Dressing-room in Buckingham Palace. It is entirely enveloped in beautiful Honiton lace. There is a deep flounce, if it may be so termed, around the top of the table, hanging in full plaits. The glass is oval, with a handsome frame of white and gold, resting upon two bases, upon each of which are seated a winged cherub, very nicely modelled: they are in pure white. This glass is surrounded by a veil of lace, kept out from the frame by an ormolu rod passing from the sides of the table in a graceful curve until it reaches the centre above the glass, where it is a little flat, and sustains the slight fabric hung upon it. The body of the table is covered with rose-coloured silk damask: it is altogether an elegant design, and reflects great credit on Messrs. Holland and Son, its manufacturers.

THE TELEGRAPHIC PLATEAU OF THE ATLANTIC.—The basin of the Atlantic Ocean is a long trough, separating the Old World from the New, and extending probably from pole to pole. This ocean furrow was probably scored into the solid crust of our planet by the Almighty hand; that there the waters which he called seas might be gathered together so as to let the dry land appear and fit the earth for the habitation of man. From the top of Chimborazo to the bottom of the Atlantic, at the deepest place yet reached by the plummet in the Northern Atlantic, the distance in a vertical line is nine miles. Could the waters of the Atlantic be drawn off so as to expose to view this great sea-gash, which separates continents and extends from the Arctic to the Antarctic, it would present a scene the most rugged, grand, and imposing. The very ribs of the solid earth, with the foundations of the sea, would be brought to light, and we should have presented to us, at one view, in the empty cradle of the ocean, "a thousand fearful wrecks, with that fearful array of dead men's skulls, great iron leeches of pearl and incrusting stones, which, in the poet's eye, lie scattered in the bottom of the sea, making it a leech with sighs of ugly death." The deepest part of the North Atlantic is troubled by a shoalure between the Bermudas and the Grand Banks. The waters of the Gulf of Mexico are held in a basin about a mile deep in the deepest part. There is, at the bottom of the sea, between Cape Race, in Newfoundland, and Cape Clear, in Ireland, a remarkable scope, which is already known as the telegraphic plateau. A company is now engaged with the project of a submarine telegraph across the Atlantic. It is proposed to carry the wires along the plateau from the eastern shores of Newfoundland to the western shores of Ireland. The great circle distance between these two shore lines is 1600 miles, and the sea along this route is probably nowhere more than 10,000 feet deep.—*Paris Mure.*

BARNUM'S ELEPHANT.—Passengers who travel by the New York and New Haven cars have a grand chance of "seeing the elephant." Going from New York, the cars pass the farm of P. T. Barnum, a mile or so before reaching Bridgeport, Ct. On that farm, and in plain view from the railroad, an elephant may be seen every pleasant day, attached to a large plough, and doing up the "sub-soiling" in first-rate style, at the rate of about three distinct double-horse teams. The animal is perfectly tractable. His attendant rides him, while a coloured man guides the plough. The elephant is also used for carrying large loads of gravel in a cart arranged purposely for him, and in drawing stone on a stone boat or drag, in piling up wood, timber, &c., and in making himself generally useful.—*New York Tribune.*

Numerous arrests of a political nature have been made at Cesena, Forli, and Ravenna.

DEFENSIVE PREPARATIONS AT ODESSA.—Within the last twelve months a great change in the outward appearance of this city is perceptible, so much so, that persons who were here last year would scarcely know it again. Instead of the former commercial bustle and activity, the place is quiet and nearly deserted by civilians, who, in dread of a bombardment, have mostly shut up their houses, and retired to the interior of the country, taking with them their families and the most valuable part of their moveable property. Not a single merchant ship is now to be seen in the harbour, the numerous workmen employed by the merchants in the corn warehouses are all discharged, the counting-houses are shut up, the Exchange deserted, and money at a great premium, owing to its scarcity and the general insecurity. Our merchants now spend their time in reading, instead of making money. They speak very cautiously about public affairs, but it is easy to perceive they are far from being delighted with the war, and have no confidence in the ultimate success of the Russian arms, nor do they evince any enthusiasm for the cause of the Emperor. From the number of spies about, they, however, feel and think more than they say, for they are looked on with suspicion, and every word that escapes them is subject to especial examination from the numerous secret agents of the police. This is especially the case with the foreigners resident here, and even the Consuls of neutral and friendly Powers are not exempt from this system of surveillance. Those who have an opportunity of looking behind the curtain will confirm what I say, that the so-loudly-vaunted patriotism of the Russians ought not to be taken for more than it is really worth. Even the enthusiastic cheering heard in public by the soldiery, when a made-up despatch is read to them of an important and decisive victory over the enemy at Sebastopol, or the particulars and even names of the English line-of-battle ships sunk and destroyed by the imitable artillermen of Fort Constantine, subsides into cold indifference on their arrival in barracks, after the order to cheer has been carried into effect. But it is more particularly in the hospitals that the true feelings of the men may be studied; for on a bed of sickness, or whilst suffering from the rudely-performed amputation of a limb, and when hovering between life and death, the Russian soldiers are apt to speak their minds freely, and communicate to each other what they feel and think without much fear of the knot in perspective, it being very problematical whether they shall live to undergo once more that well-known punishment, to which they have been accustomed all their days.—*Letter from Odessa, April 26.*

the means of instruction and preliminary practice in the larger operations of warfare.

Forty years' peace had nourished the growth of science and knowledge. We had to some extent become aware that the strength, life, and moral condition of man could only be satisfactorily sustained by attending to those rules of nature which require proper shelter, clothing, food, good water, and an atmosphere unpolluted by animal or vegetable refuse. Notwithstanding our advanced information, the arrangements of the Chobham Camp, sanitary and otherwise, were almost the same as would have been made at the time of the Peninsular War. We have, however, of late been taught a fearful lesson, and many of those fine soldiers of all ranks (and a great number besides) who assisted in the pomp and glitter of Chobham, are now no more; and it is sad to contemplate that the majority of them were not killed in the midst of battle, but by the want of forethought and proper management. This consideration causes us to look with an anxious eye to the new Camp at present in progress at Aldershot; and as many of our readers will have a similar feeling, we will give them the following brief notes of a visit to the place:—

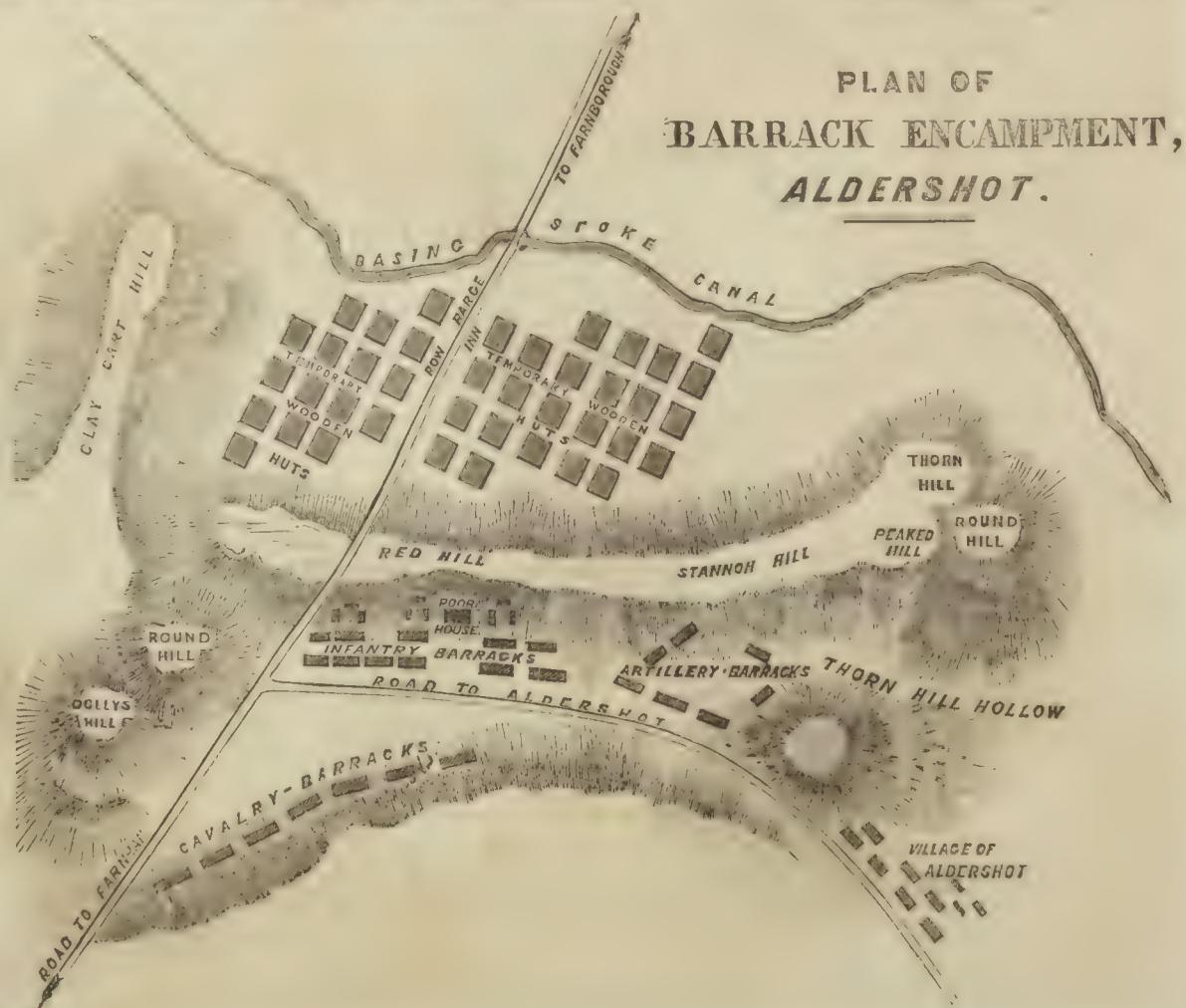
Mentioning, in the first place, that the Camp can easily be reached from two stations on the South-Western Railway, viz., Farnborough and Farnham, we will start by the seven o'clock morning train from Waterloo-bridge station. At that hour the smoke from the thousands of chimneys in the Borough has not come into full operation; notwithstanding, the view of most of these narrow streets is not satisfactory. We, however, soon pass them, and then several miles of market-gardens and meadows, evidently lacking moisture. Hamlets, here and there a fishing-stream, with water-mills, and the old-fashioned English roads (still pleasant in our memory), are all refreshing to the eye. We pass Wimbleton, and by that time the sun has begun to glimmer cheerfully. A City gentleman near us notes the frisking of the young lambs, the ploughmen with their teams, and remarks that the crows fly lazily, as if they had already break-fast.

Passing Kingston—that ancient residence of some of our Saxon Kings—and wishing to reach the Camp from the Farnham station, we, by a slight change in the carriages, go on to Woking, the old town of Guildford, Ash, and thence to the Farnham station: from here to Aldershot Heath is a distance of about three miles. Omnibus and other conveyance is to be had; but, wishing to examine the interesting matters along the road, we, staff in hand, progress from the station.

(Continued on page 468.)

A DAY AT THE ALDERSHOT CAMP.

It is but a short time since the formation of a military camp at Chobham was considered by many as a useless experiment; sad events have, however, shown the importance of this step, and the necessity for providing



IMPERIAL PRESENT TO THE LORD MAYOR.

THE Lord Mayor has been honoured by the Emperor of the French with a very gratifying testimonial of his Imperial Majesty's high satisfaction at his reception by the Chief Magistrate and the Corporation of London.

On the Monday after the Emperor and Empress had quitted England, the Lord Mayor received a magnificent snuff-box, accompanied by the following letter, addressed to his Lordship by the French Ambassador:—

Albert-gate House, April 22, 1855.

My Lord Mayor,—I am commanded by the Emperor to transmit to your Lordship the casket which accompanies this letter, containing a snuff-box bearing the cipher of his Imperial Majesty.

The Emperor is desirous that you may preserve this remembrance of his presence in the city of London as a token of his gratitude for all the attentions you have paid to that occasion.

Accept, my Lord Mayor, the assurance of the feelings of high consideration I entertain for your Lordship.

(Signed) The Ambassador of France, WALEWSKI.

The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of the

City of London.

The Lord Mayor returned the following answer:—

Mansion-house, April 23, 1855.

Monsieur l'Amiral—I have received with profound gratitude the most splendid *souvenir* which his Imperial Majesty has desired your Excellency to present to myself.

I shall indeed ever preserve it as a memorial of an event which, I trust, in its present aspect, and in its future effects, will redound to the glory of both our nations, and to the peace and happiness of the entire world.

The pleasure with which I receive this token of his Imperial Majesty's remembrance is enhanced by the fact, that the auspicious event it commemorates has occurred during my mayoralty, to which distinguished office I was unanimously elected by my fellow-citizens.

May I pray your Excellency to make these my sentiments known to his Imperial Majesty, and to accept the assurance of the high consideration with which I remain, Monsieur l'Amiral, your faithful and obedient servant,

(Signed) FRANCIS GRAHAM MOON.

To Monsieur l'Amiral to his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of the French.

The superb gift is a gold snuff-box, the ornamentation of which is of beautiful design. The lid bears the Imperial cipher "N" in large brilliants, in testimony of "the lively and grateful remembrance which his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of the French retains of the reception he met with on the occasion of his visit to this great city."

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

THE Government officials persist in their assurances that the Exhibition will be opened by the Emperor on the 15th of May; but as they were equally confident in assuring the public that the opening would take place on the 1st, there seems to be a good deal of doubt on the matter, more especially as the amount of work which still remains to be done

TESTIMONIAL PRESENTED TO THE LORD MAYOR BY THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH.

before everything can be in order is so very great. Meanwhile the preparations are going forward rapidly in some of the departments.

In the English ground floor section great progress has been made by the exhibitors of Birmingham wares and furniture. Smeed and Sons, and other English firms, have already arranged for the opening. In the galleries the English are equally conspicuous for their advanced state. The strange architecture of India is growing under the eyes of Mr. Digby Wyatt—the central tent, gay with the bright dyes of the East, is already fixed. Nottingham is lining her sombre cases with yellow. De la Rue's case is receiving the remarkable combinations of colours loved by Owen Jones. Mr. E. C. Spurin, of New Bond-street, has already fixed his model farm; and against the southern walls various active gentlemen are arranging specimens of English printing and English photography. In the English Engineering Department a long stall of models, of Gravesend Pier, various lighthouses, &c., has been fixed and covered up. Hereabouts, also, Wildey and Co. have arranged the cocoa-nut fibre matting.

Passing westward through the Belgian and German Gallery space, an activity almost equal to that of England is observable. Already many Belgian stalls are finally arranged, and covered with cloths, to be removed on the 15th inst. only. Bonnefoy and Boex, of Brussels, have arranged an effective stall of carving and gilding against the southern wall of the building. In the German Gallery space there is a Berlin-wool trophy, displaying every possible shade of this remarkable production, from the liveliest tints essential to the wing of the macaw down to the chocolate ground of the suburban kettle-holder. In the Western Gallery, Spain, Portugal, and Switzerland are hard at work, but display nothing at present.

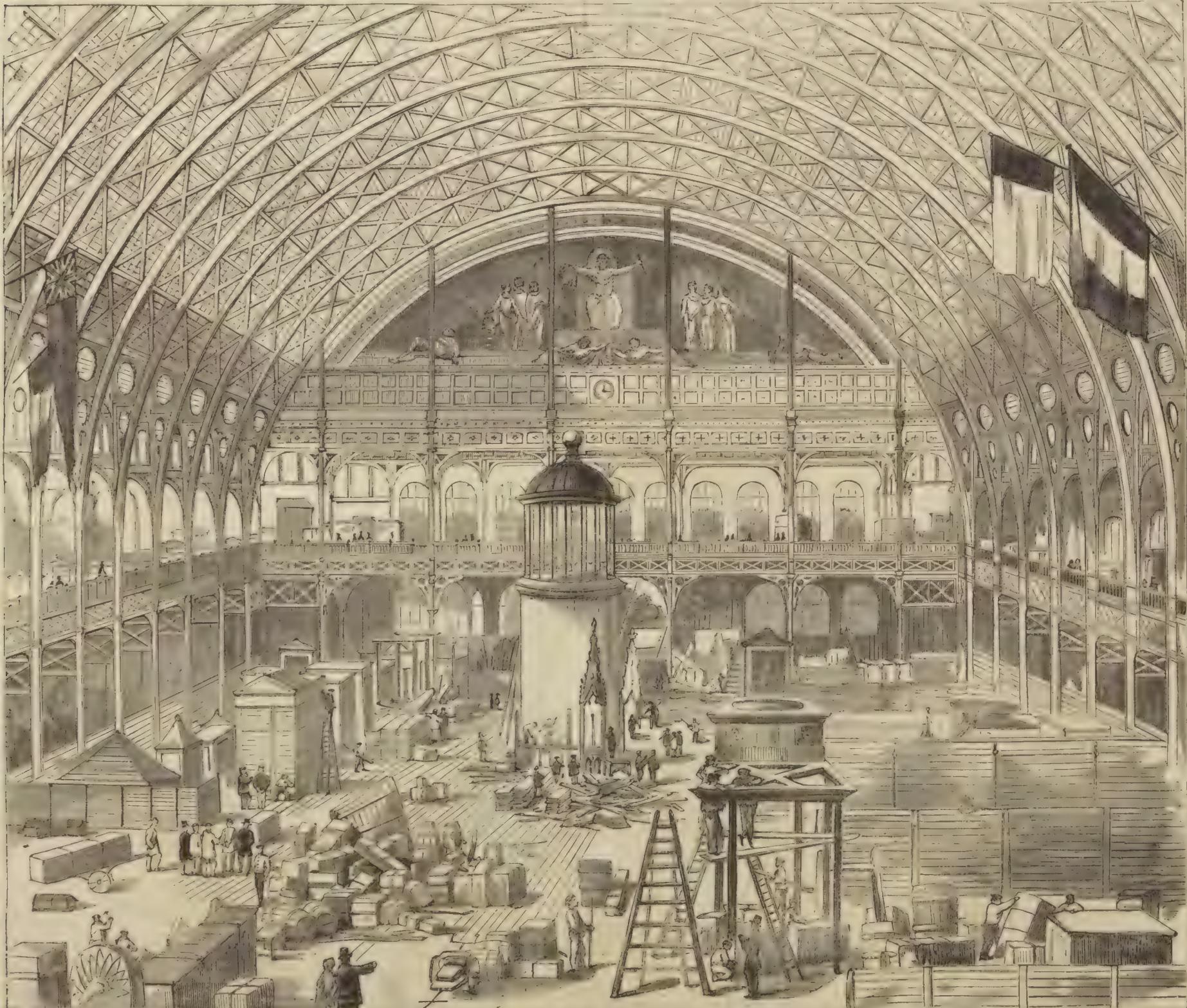
Some activity is now fairly perceptible in most of the French Courts. Counters are being covered with blue calico to show off ceramic manufactures, and a dull green ground pervades the court devoted to plastic ornaments. In this court exhibitors have already deposited some excellent specimens of Parisian taste and skill in modelling. Solon has some well-executed figures in *carton-pierre*; and there is an exceedingly pretty design, in red material, for gilding, by Vidal, representing an *Allegory of Peace*. Designs and modelling, indeed, appear to be the department of the Exhibition everywhere most advanced. The Germans are nearly ready with their plasters. In the English Gallery Mr. Digby Wyatt has already arranged his series of designs for various publications; and in the Belgian Gallery space stalls of designs are grouped. The accompanying View was sketched on the 27th ultimo.

DEATH OF MR. W. DEVONSHIRE SAULL.—This kind-hearted gentleman (whose name will be remembered in the list of "Gratuitous Exhibitions" of the metropolis), died on the 26th ult., at his house, in Aldersgate-street, in his 72nd year. He was a member of the Geological and Astronomical Societies, and of the Society of Antiquaries: to the latter he communicated, in 1841, some observations on the discovery of some British, Celtic, and Roman remains in the neighbourhood of Dunstable; and he communicated to the Geological Society some observations on a notion of planetary influence on the globe, which were not allowed to be printed. In the *Literary Gazette* his views in regard to politics and religion, as well as science, are stated to have been anything but orthodox. He will, however, be remembered for his liberality in allowing to be visited by the public, on every Thursday, a very interesting Museum, which is thus described in the "Curiosities of London":

"The antiquities, principally excavated in the metropolis, consist of early British vases, Roman lamps and urns, amphorae, and dishes, tiles, bricks, and pavements, and fragments of Samian ware; also, a few Egyptian antiquities; and a cabinet of Greek, Roman, and early British coins. The Geological Department contains the collection of the late Mr. Sowerby, with additions by Mr. Saul; together exceeding 20,000 specimens, arranged according to the probable order of the earth's structure. Every article bears a descriptive label; and the localisation of the antiquities, some of which were dug up almost on the spot, renders these relics so many medals of our metropolitan civilisation." We are not aware of Mr. Saul's disposition of his museum; but it was understood to be his intention to bequeath it to some public institution, by which means it will be more accessible than it was in his lifetime.

TOPOGRAPHICAL EXPLANATIONS.—It may be as well to mention that the large work which is alluded to in the English and French despatches as the "Mamelon Redoubt," is called by the Russians the "Kamschatka Redoubt." The "Korniloff Bastion," which is frequently referred to in the Russian despatches, appears to be the work immediately in front of the ruin of the old Round Tower, and now known as the Malakoff Batteries. The ravine which in the English Camp is known as the "Middle Ravine," or sometimes the "Otzchakov Ravine," is always spoken of as the "Karabellina Ravine" in the French despatches. The French have given this name to it because, in winding round to terminate in the valley of the South Harbour, it passes by the Karabellina suburb of the city.—*Letter from the Camp.*

THE grape disease has again made its appearance in many parts of Portugal. The orange and lemon trees, in addition to the blight with which they have been attacked, have been injured in the roots by a worm which was destroying the trees.



INTERIOR OF THE PARIS INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION BUILDING.



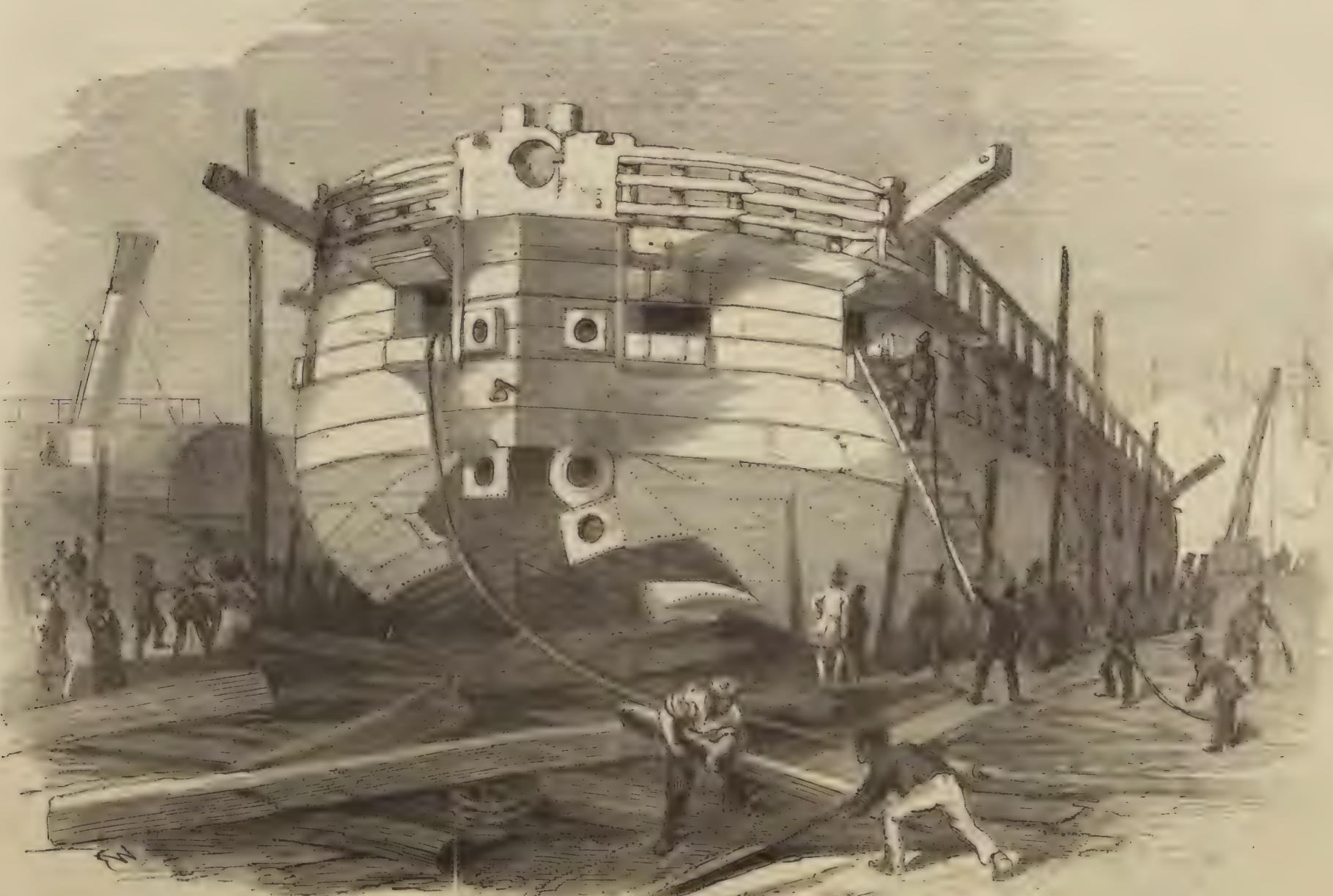
THE FLOATING BATTERY "ETNA" ON FIRE, AT MESSRS. SCOTT RUSSELL AND CO.'S WORKS, MILLWALL.

DESTRUCTION OF THE "ETNA" FLOATING BATTERY. As we mentioned briefly last week, the *Etna* floating-battery, built by

Saturday last, was destroyed by fire on the night of the 3rd instant. The foreman of the battery went over the works as late as a quarter

to nine that evening, when it appeared perfectly safe, and that within twenty-five minutes afterwards flames were seen encircling her port side

as well as underneath. The fire had been kindled outside, and the flames being exposed to a strong north-easterly gale were wafted through the port-holes into the interior of the battery, and all attempts to check their progress proved ineffectual. The most strenuous exertions were made



REMAINS OF THE FLOATING BATTERY "ETNA," AT MESSRS. SCOTT RUSSELL'S, MILLWALL.

collect the various hands together; but, before any one could render the least assistance, the flames rushed between the iron plates of the battery, firing every foot of timber from the stem to the stern; and eventually the heat became so great that the iron plates, 4½ inches thick, started in sundry places, when the flames rose upwards of a hundred feet high, lighting up the east end of the Surrey side of the water. The reflection of the flames was so strong, that it was impossible to tell from a distance on which side of the river the fire was raging, and many of the engines were driven as far as Deptford before the firemen could ascertain the exact seat of the disaster. About eleven o'clock a frightful scene took place, as the ponderous vessel, in a thorough state of ignition, glided off the stocks most majestically into the river, amidst the shrieks of some thousands of people who were in boats at the mouth of the dock. Several persons were so frightened that they jumped into the river, but they were fortunately rescued by the Thames police and watermen. The loss caused by the fire—which is strongly suspected to have been the work of an incendiary—is estimated at from £80,000 to £100,000.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

As may be supposed, the sudden and unexpected changes that have taken place among some of the high functionaries here form the great subject of conversation and interest. A thousand reports and conjectures are whispered about concerning the resignation of M. Drouyn de Lhuys, none of which, however, we feel justified in repeating. M. de Persigny is, we think, likely to be popular in England. His knowledge of the country, the society, and the people, acquired during his residence with the Emperor, when Prince Louis Napoleon—his firmness of purpose, his intelligence, and composure of tone and manner—are all calculated to produce a favourable impression on the minds of our compatriots.

The latest intelligence respecting Pianori states that he has already suffered several condemnations in Italy; on what grounds has not yet transpired. He appears to have arrived in Paris better provided with money and clothes than there is any likelihood he could have obtained by his labour, and the pistol used in the attempt was one of considerable value.

The sentence pronounced on the intended assassin is what was generally anticipated from the time it was known that he was to be submitted to the ordinary course of jurisdiction.

It appears that some of the Senators, on the day after the attempt, went to the Tuilleries, to consult with the Emperor on the subject; his reply is said to have been—"Je veux que cet homme soit jugé comme s'il avait tiré sur un plâtrier de la plaine St. Denis."

Innumerable, as may be supposed, are the reports relative to the event and its causes. Some assert that the assassin belongs to a vast secret society, different branches of which are scattered through various countries, and that each branch has appointed two delegates for this purpose, designed by the drawing of lots; others, that it is a party in the south that has employed Pianori (or Pianoli). None of these reports are in any degree corroborated by his testimony, in which he has never ceased to assert that his motive in the attempt was to carry out the vengeance he had sworn to perform when the siege of Rome was the cause of the ruin of his family.

When in the Conciergerie, a photographic portrait was executed of Pianori, that, by distributing copies wherever there seemed to be any clue to his identification, further details respecting him may be obtained. A providential circumstance, but little known, seems, in some degree, to have contributed to the security of the Emperor on this occasion.

The écuyer of the Empress, the Baron de Pierre, being ill on the day in question, the Emperor directed that M. de Valabreque, who habitually attended himself, should follow the carriage of the Empress, in order to fill his place; by this means his Majesty was left with M. Edgar Ney, who rode on his left.

On the arrival of M. de Valabreque, the Empress, as if warned by a presentiment, refused to accept his escort, and desired him to return immediately to resume his post.

It was within a few paces only of the spot where he took his place on the Emperor's right—the side from which the shot was fired—that the attack was made, and there is no doubt but that this circumstance operated materially in falsifying the aim of the assassin.

Paris is beginning to fill perceptibly, but hardly to the degree that was anticipated, for the expected opening of the Exhibition. It appears now highly uncertain whether matters will be sufficiently advanced by the 15th to allow of the event taking place; and, indeed, we suspect that, if the month of May sees it occur at all, it will be the utmost that may be expected. As yet very few season tickets have been taken. The price of entrance during the month of May (?) is to be 5 francs.

The Cercle de l'Exposition is sending round volumes of circulars respecting its plans, views, and intentions, and appealing to the *notabilités* of the capital to aid it in doing the honour to the celebrities of all classes and all countries about to be therein collected. All the *commissaires* sent by their various nations for this occasion have received letters of invitation, gratis, from the club; and furthermore, it has placed at their disposal a set of chambers belonging to the hotel, for the accommodation, free of expense, of such of their compatriots—members of the Cercle—who shall arrive in Paris unprovided with lodgings, until the day after their entrance.

On the 3rd the Emperor and Empress inaugurated the magnificent Horticultural Exhibition in the Champs Elysées—of which we gave our readers a recent account.

Preparations are being made for the departure of their Majesties for St. Cloud, to pass the commencement of the summer.

A singular accident occurred a few days since to Madame de Poize, one of the new *dames d'honneur* to the Empress. The horses of her carriage ran away in the court of the Tuilleries, and, upsetting the vehicle, broke her leg, and considerably injured both the coachman and footman. It is hoped that the results of this distressing occurrence will not prove very serious.

It is a subject of remark that the nephew of the Duke of Wellington (Lord Cowley) presented to the nephew of the Emperor Napoleon an address of congratulation on his recent escape on the anniversary of the death of Napoleon I.

The Opéra Comique is busily occupied in preparing for representation the new opera of MM. Auber and Scribe—"Jenny Bell." Shortly after it is to follow the work of M. Gevaert—"Le Revenant," in one act. At the Jardin d'Hiver is being produced a new plan, in high relief, of Sebastopol, with all the latest works; executed by a first-rate modeller, M. Bauerkeiller, from an original taken on the spot by M. C. Léger. It is on an extremely large scale; and, from the grandeur of the effect and correctness of the details, is full of interest and instruction. The reopening for the season of the Hippodrome has been a point of general attraction. One of the principal novelties on this occasion is the appearance of three of the Bushman race—two men and a woman—who vie with each other in singularity, hideousness, and the absence of all that most distinguishes the human from the brute race. The exhibition of these extraordinary creatures has produced some curiosity, but has not proved generally popular.

AMERICA.

The mail steam-ship *America*, which sailed from Boston on the 25th ult., arrived at Liverpool on Tuesday. The news by this arrival is meagre and uninteresting.

A despatch from Detroit, dated April 1, says that on that morning the propeller *Oregon*, of Cleveland, about four miles above that city, exploded, killing ten persons, and severely wounding several others. The explosion was caused by a defect in the boiler. The steamer was completely shattered, and shortly afterwards sank. Another steamer—the *William Knox*—from Cincinnati for St. Louis, was destroyed by fire on the 23rd ult., below Louisville. The boats were full of passengers, but all were expected to be saved by a steamer seen alongside.

In the Supreme Court of New York, on the 19th ult., a verdict of 15,234 dols. was returned against Phineas T. Barnum, for Crystal Palace shares, bought at the time he assumed the Presidency.

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

The news from the Allied Camp is unusually barren of incident this week. The letters, which come down to the 28th ult., report that there has been a little skirmishing in the night, a little firing in the day—not much of either, but just sufficient to show that we are still at war, and have not raised the siege. The enemy appear to have everywhere repaired the damage which was done to their works by the late fire from our batteries. On our side, it having been made evident that neither the proximity nor the weight of metal was sufficient to accomplish the desired object of silencing the hostile works, vigorous steps are being taken to remedy the deficiencies. Heavy guns, which were in the batteries of the first parallel, are being removed into the advanced work. Other batteries are being thrown up still further in front. Batteries which at the first bombardment were armed with 24-pounders, replaced at the late fire by 32-pounders, will now be wholly armed with 68-pounders. The late fire has shown, too, where other batteries were required, and some of these are already completed and armed, while others are in progress. The French have also thrown up a new battery on the right, and have added generally to the power of their works.

On some days the fire has been so slack that not more than twenty or thirty round shot have been fired for a whole day from the English lines, and the Russian and French works are said to be equally silent. Our tramway is taxed to its utmost, and each day large stores of ammunition are forwarded. Before the bombardment will again commence, 2000 tons of powder and shot are required at the English works alone, in addition to the daily supply of 150 tons of shot and shell. All the vessels in Balaklava having cargoes of shot have been required to discharge them immediately, and all vessels now using ordnance shot as ballast are also ordered to land them.

One hundred and fifty tons of shot and shell, and one hundred and twenty tons of powder, were forwarded to Camp on the 27th, with twelve more guns, taken from the *Leander*. The latter are six 32's and six 56's. Beyond these facts, and that they were sent to the trenches, when our works were progressing very slowly, there is literally nothing to chronicle connected with the English portion of the siege. On the side of our allies they are said to be getting on faster, though even they are represented as not keeping pace with the enemy's defensive preparations.

The sanitary reports of the English army are very gratifying. The army now consists of 18,500 rank and file, exclusive of sergeants, drummers, seamen, mounted staff corps, cavalry, artillery, or engineers, under arms, and also exclusive of those on camp duties. If sergeants and rank and file of cavalry, artillery, and infantry were reckoned, still, excluding the remainder of the above, we should have within a fraction of 24,000 bayonets.

General Canrobert, in a letter addressed to the Emperor, dated April 28, thus expresses himself:—

It is with pleasure that I announce to your Majesty that the English army, always so solid, has become as fine and healthy as it was in the first days of its arrival in the East. It is receiving reinforcements in infantry, in cavalry, and in means of transport. I continue to live on the most cordial terms with Lord Raglan, and the two armies continue to be closely united, and count one upon the other.

The general belief is that the Allies were to commence operations on a large scale as soon as the reinforcements have arrived. A telegraphic despatch from the Crimea of the 9th inst. announces that General Marmora had arrived with 4000 Piedmontese troops. The French army of reserve at Maslak was also about to go to the Crimea.

In consequence of alarming rumours from Eupatoria, Omer Pacha had returned from Balaklava, and made a reconnaissance towards Saki. The Russians would not venture on a battle, but an attack was anticipated from them.

THE WAR IN ASIA.

By a private letter from Vienna, dated May 6, we learn that—

The rupture of the recent negotiations between the Envoy of Great Britain and the Court of Teheran, which has ended in a declaration on the part of Persia actively to espouse the cause of Russia against Turkey, is also fraught with no mean importance; especially when taken in connection with the latest advices received here from the scene of war in Asia. We learn from thence that the military operations of Russia against Kars have already begun, and, despite the great exertions made by the Ottoman Generals to defend that place, it is apprehended that this fortress will not be able to hold out very long. Erzeroum is, consequently, being fortified in all haste, as the Russians are already advancing by the Bagazid road. The Russian General-in-Chief Muravieff, on the 21st of April, was in the head-quarters of Prince Bebutoff, at Alexandropol. . . .

THE VIENNA PROTOCOLS.

THE whole of the papers relating to the negotiations at Vienna on the Eastern question are now before the public, but their very great length forbids our giving more than a summary of their contents. They consist of the Memorandum communicated by the Three Powers to Prince Gortschakoff on the 28th December, 1854; and fourteen Protocols, which profess to give the substance of what took place at each Conference. The Memorandum contained a definition of the Four Points—the abolition of the Russian Protectorate over the Danubian Principalities; the free navigation of the Danube; the revision of the Treaty of 1841, with a view "to connect the existence of the Ottoman Empire more completely with the European equilibrium, and to put an end to the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea;" and, lastly, the abrogation of all treaties under which Russia has claimed an official protectorate over the Christian subjects of the Sultan—the latter guaranteeing the religious privileges of the different Christian communities in Turkey.

At the first Conference, which was held on the 15th of March, Count Buol, who had been appointed president, stated that "the bases of peace," as explained in the memorandum, "had been communicated to the Russian Envoy," and that "he was authorised to adhere to all the principles laid down, and was ready to adopt them as a point of departure for the negotiations." Baron de Bourquenay and Lord John Russell then stated the determination of their respective Governments "to pursue the career of sacrifice until the four principles enunciated by the Austrian Plenipotentiary shall have been placed, with all their consequences, in the public law of Europe," and at the same time reserved the right of making such special conditions, over and above the four guarantees, as the interests of Europe might require, in order to prevent a return of the existing complications. Prince Gortschakoff was also desirous to promote peace, and hoped that they had all a common object in wishing to secure a general peace, "a peace which cannot be lasting, or have any practical value, unless it be honourable for both parties." He added that, "if conditions of peace were wished to be imposed on Russia which should not be compatible with her honour, Russia would never consent to them, however serious might be the consequences."

The Russian Ministers (after an ineffectual attempt to obtain the admission of Prussia to the Conference) consented to the complete and permanent abrogation of the treaties formerly existing on the subject of the Principalities between Russia and Turkey; and the future condition of those provinces was to be settled by a solemn act of the Porte, providing for the maintenance of all the privileges and liberties of the Moldo-Wallachians and the Servians, under the amicable sanction of the Great Powers. All exclusive protection was to be abolished, and the Russian Plenipotentiaries showed a singular and laudable, if it were genuine, zeal that the franchises of the people in these provinces should nowise be abridged. The definitive arrangement of a scheme for the administration of the Principalities was referred to a committee, which was to wait for further instructions from Constantinople.

The question of the Danubian navigation was in like manner settled without much difficulty. Russia protested that she had never contested or opposed the commercial freedom of the river, and that the obstacles which had arisen proceeded from natural causes only; to which remark Baron Prokesch dryly replied that, although he in no respect questioned the good intentions of the Russian Government on this subject, it unfortunately happened that the results were incontestably at variance with her professions. The arrangement eventually agreed upon provided that the

principles established in 1815 with reference to the other navigable rivers of Europe should be applied to the Danube and guaranteed by all the Powers, and that a commission of all the Great Powers should be appointed to take all the necessary steps for opening and protecting the free navigation of the river. Russia agreed not to re-establish her quarantine on the Sulina mouth, and that no fortifications should be erected between the channels of Sulina and St. George.

On the 26th of March the Plenipotentiaries arrived at the discussion of the Third Point, upon which Count Buol proposed that the Ministers of Russia and of Turkey should, in the first instance, be requested to state respectively to the Conference the means by which they proposed to give effect to this general stipulation. This courteous proposition was assented to by France and England, but declined by Prince Gortschakoff, who stated that he was not in a condition to take the course suggested by Count Buol, and an adjournment was then agreed upon for the purpose of allowing time for Ali Pacha to arrive from Constantinople, M. Drouyn de Lhuys from Paris, and further instructions from St. Petersburg. Austria urged the expediency of proceeding in this interval of time to the discussion of the Fourth Point, and Russia strongly supported this opinion; but the French and English Envoys were ordered by their respective Governments to abstain from discussing the last point until the third had been settled.

On the 17th of April, after an interruption of eighteen days, the Conference resumed, in order to learn the result of the reference to St. Petersburg. Prince Gortschakoff at once declined to accept the offer made him at the former meeting, and to originate any proposal; but he added, that Russia was prepared to take into her serious consideration any means which might be proposed, provided they were not of a nature to infringe on the rights of sovereignty of the Emperor of Russia in his own dominions. Upon this announcement M. Drouyn de Lhuys (who was now present) expressed his regret that, after eighteen days' delay, the Russian Plenipotentiaries had no better communication to make to the Conference; he therefore proposed that the Allied Powers should immediately meet to agree upon a proposition; and he ended by asking Prince Gortschakoff whether Russia would consider her rights of sovereignty infringed if she deprived herself of the liberty of building an unlimited number of ships of war in the Black Sea? To this home question Prince Gortschakoff replied that "Russia would not consent to the strength of her navy being restricted to any fixed number, either by treaty or any other means."

Lord John Russell could not disguise the surprise which Prince Gortschakoff's statement had caused him. The sole object of the surrender of the initiative to Russia was to give her the opportunity of making proposals consistent with her honour. History recorded more than one instance of great and glorious Sovereigns having consented to a limitation of their rights of sovereignty in their own territory, being animated with the desire of putting an end to the effusion of blood by a treaty of peace, or of preventing a rupture and the consequent evils of war. He instanced the consent of Louis XIV. to the demolition of Dunkirk, and several other cases drawn from treaties concluded between Great Britain and France, and Great Britain and the United States, with a view of avoiding war. He had hoped that Russia would have voluntarily, and with the view of re-establishing peace, made proposals tending to this end. Since the Court of St. Petersburg had declined to take the initiative on this subject, the chances of success attending the negotiations for peace appeared in his eyes much diminished.

Prince Gortschakoff replied that a Power of the first order could hardly accept the limitations of the nature to which Lord John Russell had alluded, except after having sustained a long series of disasters, and that the case of Dunkirk could in no way be applied to the present position of Russia. As to the diminution of the chances of peace, spoken of by Lord John Russell, he begged him to consider that Russia had only excluded one point from discussion, and was ready to examine all the modes of solution which should be proposed, exclusive of this point.

Aali Pacha held that "the limitation of the naval forces in the Black Sea was the only mode of solution at once practicable and honourable to all parties. Count Buol regretted that the answer of the Court of St. Petersburg was not of a nature to serve as a point of departure for further deliberations. A short discussion followed, and then the Conference broke up.

On the 19th of April it again assembled, when a long discussion took place regarding the best means of "putting an end to the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea." Lord John Russell remarked that of the two Powers which alone command the shores of that sea—"the one, already very strong, continually augments her forces; while the other is weakened by the wars which she has had successively to carry on against Russia. In this state of things England regards the excessive increase of the Russian fleet in the Black Sea as a perpetual menace hanging over the Bosphorus and Constantinople." Count Buol took the same view. As a general theory, to pretend to limit the land or sea forces of a foreign Power would be to encroach on her sovereign rights; but the case of the Euxine—a closed sea—was an exceptional one. "An indefinite development of the maritime forces of one of the bordering Powers," showed "an aggressive tendency" which ought to be guarded against by the proposed limitation.

Prince Gortschakoff asks the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria if the limitation of the Russian forces in the Black Sea—which Count Buol had admitted to be an exception to a general principle recognised by himself—were, in his opinion, to be accomplished by means of coercion, in case Russia were to refuse to concur in it spontaneously.

In answering this question, Count Buol declares that Austria, for the present, supports the project under discussion, by recommending it to the adoption of Russia; but that, in other respects, he must reserve for the Emperor his master full liberty as to the choice of means by which he may consider it expedient eventually to give his support to this proposition.

On the 21st of April a long discussion took place regarding the means of connecting the existence of the Ottoman Empire with the European equilibrium. To effect this arrangement a clause was drawn up by M. Drouyn de Lhuys, which bound all the Powers to respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman empire, and to guarantee in common the strict observance of this engagement. On this point Prince Gortschakoff at once refused to attach to this guarantee the signification of a positive or active guarantee of the Turkish territories. M. Drouyn de Lhuys showed that Russia was unwilling to give any real guarantee to the Ottoman empire. What it pretended to give was a mere sham, because "even in the case of a Turkish province being invaded by one of the contracting Powers, Russia, according to Prince Gortschakoff's interpretation, will confine herself to the employment of her good offices," while on the other hand, she admits of no limitation to a fleet which, in the judgment of all the Powers, is disproportionate to the forces of the other river-borders Power to such an extent as to form a permanent menace against her. On being pressed to explain more fully the views of the Court of St. Petersburg, since it had already rejected the means proposed for the attainment of the Third Point, Prince Gortschakoff read a paper to the Conference, in which he attempted to show that Turkey was exposed to no danger from the naval forces of Russia, and ended by declaring that Russia would not object to a revision of the Treaty of 1841 for the purpose of opening to the military flags of all nations the passage of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. That is literally the only concession which Russia announced her intention to make on this subject—a concession, indeed, made at the expense of Turkey rather than at her own. It was followed by another suggestion, of closing the Straits at the pleasure of the Porte; but these clauses were so obviously worthless and impracticable that nothing remained for the British and French Plenipotentiaries but to refuse to discuss them, and to declare that their powers and instructions were exhausted. The Envoy of France, nevertheless, continued to insist that he had relieved the plenipotentiaries of his Government by making several propositions for the solution of the difficulty; but the only value of those propositions in our eyes, and in the eyes of Europe, is the demonstration they certain that Russia will not until she be compelled, consent to give any guarantee for the territorial independence of Turkey the breach of which would constitute an immediate *casus belli* between herself and all the other Great Powers; and that Russia will maintain, as long as she is physically able to do so, that active position in the Black Sea which has been the sole cause of the present war. Count Buol terminated the Conference, as he had opened it, by declaring that, in the opinion of the Court of Vienna, the plan proposed by M. Drouyn de Lhuys and rejected by Russia was complete and effectual, but that the counter-propositions of Russia "would only tend to augment the chances of a misunderstanding," and could not be considered as embodying principles proper to be introduced into a complete and general system of policy.

In the course of a violent tempest which burst on the 24th ult. over the valley of Aran, in Catalonia, near the French frontier, some enormous masses of snow fell from the Pyrenees, and completely buried three large villages, named Una, Vaquerque, and Llaby, each containing from 500 to 700 inhabitants.



THE CAMP AT ALDERSHOTT.

(Continued from page 462.)

Farnham is a pretty little town, most healthily situated—surrounded on one side by Farnham park, and on the others by extensive hop-gardens. Soon after entering the town a picturesque hostelry catches the eye, on the sign of which is the following:—"Jolly Farmers; the birthplace of W. Cobbett, Esq., M.P." Here that industrious writer was taught by his father to earn his living from almost early infancy.

This town was originally called *Pernham*, from the fern growing on the heaths adjoining. Here, in 893, Alfred obtained a signal victory over the Danes, who were ravaging this part of the country; and, in the reign of Stephen, Henry de Blois—brother of that Monarch, and Bishop of Winchester—erected on a hill commanding the town, a castle of great strength and of considerable extent, which is said to have been seized by the Dauphin of France, in his expedition against King John. This castle was demolished in the reign of Henry III., but was subsequently rebuilt by the Bishops of Winchester with greater magnificence as an episcopal palace. During the Parliamentary War the castle was garrisoned by the King; but, being besieged by Waller, the Parliamentary General, it fell into his hands, and was afterwards dismantled and nearly destroyed. At the Restoration the inhabited part was greatly improved by Bishop Morley: it has, since then, been altered, and is still the residence of the Bishops of the diocese. Considerable portions of the keep, &c., are still remaining.

The church of Farnham is now undergoing restoration, and is well worthy of a visit. The chancel is of Transition Norman, and the nave of about the fifteenth century, of fine proportions. Here Cobbett was buried, at his own request, by the side of his father. Leaving the

church, and passing the somewhat picturesque Town-hall, we ascend the hill on which the castle stands: remarking that Farnham, from the favourable nature of the soil and the peculiar care taken in the culture of the hop-plant, produces an article decidedly superior to that of any other part of England; and, in consequence, the Farnham growers com-

give us on one side a bold view of Caesar's Camp, as the high point of land shown in the right hand of the Engraving of the general view of Aldershott Camp is called in the neighbourhood; and on the other a panorama so extensive and striking, that many would willingly undertake the journey for the purpose of viewing that alone.

As we get nearer to Caesar's Camp, the surrounding scenery becomes more and more desolate; and, directed by a little girl engaged in gathering whins for firing, we mount the platform of the Camp said to have been erected by the Roman General above named. Here is a magnificent view of the country round, having for a foreground the rugged earthworks of the old warriors; and in the middle distance long ranges of uninhabited heaths, on one of which the new Camp is situated. Nothing can be more desolate and solitary than this spot—even the song of birds is scarcely heard. Although this place is named after Caesar, it seems somewhat doubtful if it is a Roman camp at all. The embankments are very irregular, and of great extent, and may possibly have served as a place of defence during the severe struggles which occurred in this district between the Saxons and the Danes. Camden makes no mention of a Roman station of any importance being near this place. On the north side of this hill there is a large-made mound of earth, which has originally been of a circular form. The springs which abound here have caused part of this earth-work to slip away; it is, however, a

matter well worthy of careful examination.

At a little distance, near Red-hill, or Red Field Farm, are several circular barrows. Leaving the hill, and proceeding towards the Aldershott Camp, we discovered a barrow of considerable length, and the visible remains of an undoubted Roman encampment, consisting of a



STREET WITHIN THE LINES OF THE CAMP AT ALDERSHOTT.

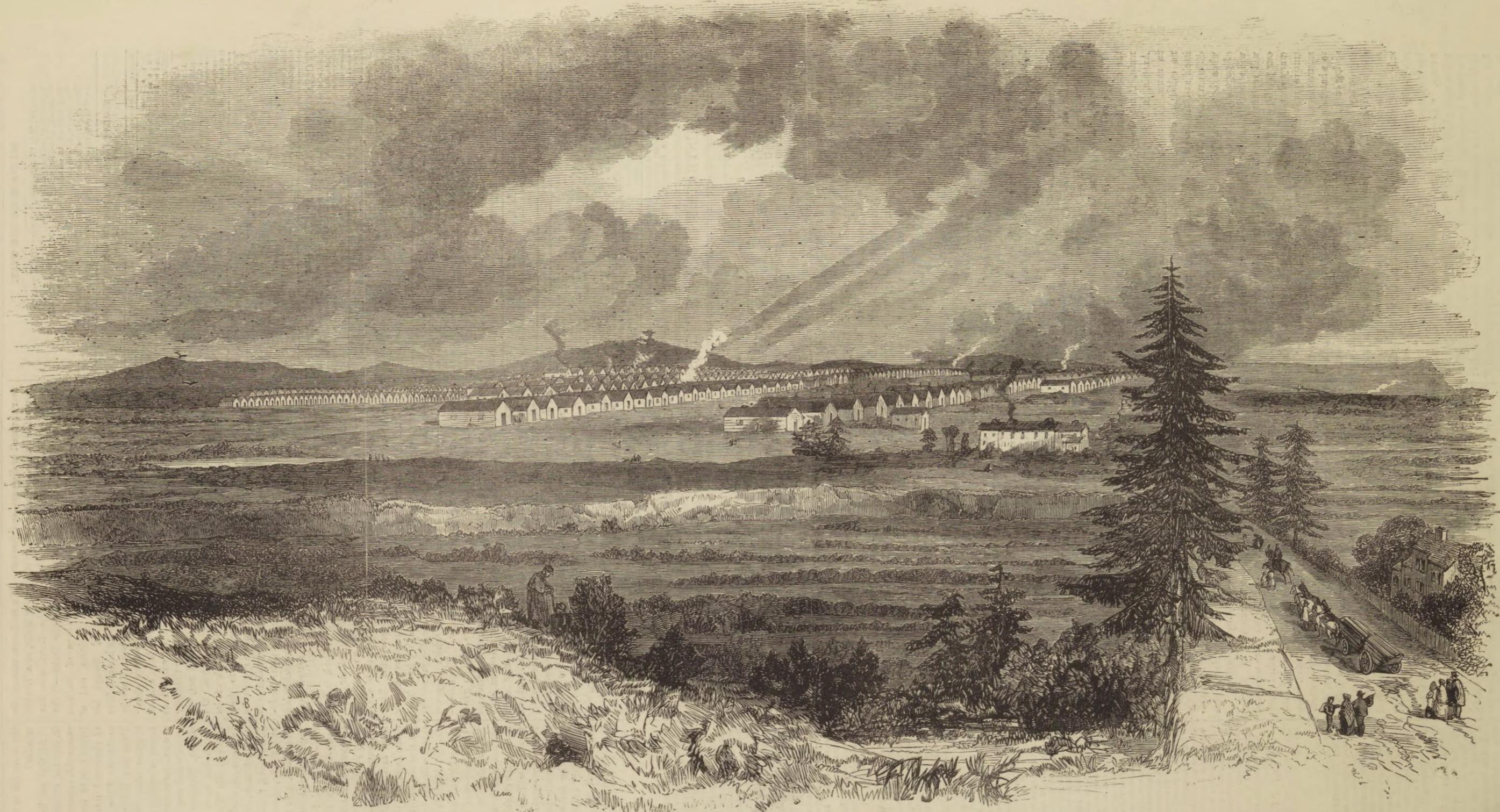
mand a higher price in the market. Behind the castle the park extends throughout a circumference of three miles, and is well stocked with deer and planted with fir and other trees. From hence the road towards Aldershott assumes a wilder appearance, and here and there small cottages are built amongst the heaths. The ground, as we go onward, continues to rise, and



INTERIOR OF OFFICER'S HUT.



INTERIOR OF SOLDIERS' HUT.



GENERAL VIEW OF THE CAMP AT ALDERSHOT, FROM THE FARNBOROUGH ROAD.

square platform, surrounded by three trenches. In the neighbourhood are also traces of a narrow embankment and ditch, which leads in one direction towards Cæsar's Camp, and on the other at intervals towards Guildford. This may, probably, in former times have been raised to mark the division of two districts. Compared with this desolate spot, the new Camp presents an appearance of life and bustle; in all directions workmen are busily engaged either in completing huts or in commencing new ones; and, although the wind is strongly rushing over the place, bringing with it clouds of dust, we begin to make a careful examination of the residences preparing for 20,000 men; and first let us mention that the part of the Camp shown in the engraved general view will accommodate twelve battalions, or 12,000 men. The huts for eight more battalions have been commenced on a less elevated piece of land, situated at some distance towards the north-east.

The houses for each battalion consist of two rows of soldiers' huts, twenty-four in a row, with 20 feet apart all round; those for the accommodation of twenty-five

men are 39 feet long by 21 wide, and 7 feet high to the eaves. Behind the soldiers' dwellings in each battalion are placed the mess-rooms, guard-rooms, cooking-houses, and officers' apartments: the latter are 43 feet by 21—the difference of length between these and the other huts being caused by entrances and passages; the remaining space is divided into eight rooms, one, two, or four of which are appropriated to the use of officers according to their rank. These apartments are only 10 feet long, 9 feet 2 inches wide, and at the highest part 8 feet.

The roofs of the houses of both officers and men have been lined at the height of eight feet by a flat ceiling of wood, which, although it may perhaps give more finish to the work, does not improve the ventilation of the place; and, certainly, to our eye, the position of the funnel of its stove must cause considerable risk from fire. The boarding of the roofs having been found insufficient to keep out the wet, they have been covered with a layer of felt. Although the cooking-houses and

washing-places are undoubtedly an improvement on those in use at Chobham, they are in many ways far from being perfect, and experience will undoubtedly suggest several alterations. The drainage is also considered at Aldershot, and is effected by means of glazed pipes, which are passed into the Basingstoke Canal. This, however, only provides for the surface drainage; Messrs. Henning having agreed to deodorise the remainder of the Camp by the use of peat charcoal.

The supply of water has been obtained from wells which, we are told, have been sunk to a depth of twenty-five or thirty feet. At this depth spring water has not been obtained. Cæsar's Camp is full of springs of the most pure and delicious water. Would it not have been possible to convey this to Aldershot, instead of sinking the wells, which only afford a comparatively impure supply of one of the necessities of life? The huts, which form long streets, are occasionally broken by spaces for parade-grounds, &c., and by two wide roads, which cross at right angles at the centre of the Camp. We understand that up to the present time no

hospital accommodation has been provided; but that it is intended forthwith to provide for the reception of 400 patients, and also a slaughter-house for the Commissariat, in which we trust that the best means will be adopted to prevent danger from the refuse which the drainage is not prepared to carry off. The ground which will be covered with houses is about 500 acres. A detachment of the 97th Regiment have come into the Camp, and begun in a very orderly and systematic manner to take possession of their new home. We must, however, for the present, leave the Camp for Farnborough, noting on the road the blackened hills, over which a fire a short time ago extended for several miles. The peeps through the fir-trees, the quiet churchyard near Farnborough, the long line of rail (five miles without a curve), and the grove of trees near the station, particularly if seen with the full moon rising behind, serve pleasantly to pass the little time it may be necessary to wait for the train, particularly if, as is a common occurrence, a number of nightingales add their song to the beauty of the scene.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, May 13.—Rogation Sunday. Old May-day.
 MONDAY, 14.—Henry Grattan died, 1820.
 TUESDAY, 15.—Cuvier died, 1832. O'Connell died, 1847.
 WEDNESDAY, 16.—Oates convicted of perjury, 1685.
 THURSDAY, 17.—Ascension-day.
 FRIDAY, 18.—Napoleon I declared Emperor of France.
 SATURDAY, 19.—St. Dunstan. Anna Boleyn beheaded, 1536.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 19, 1855.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
No 5	h m	m	h m	m	h m	h m
0 5	0 30	0 54	1 17	1 37	1 58	2 19
2 39	2 59	3 18	3 38	3 54	4 13	

LONDON SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY. Exeter-hall.—Mr. SURMAN'S ANNUAL NIGHT, on MONDAY, MAY the 21st.—Hawkin's CREATION. Preceded by the Royal Birthday Cantata. Principal Vocalists: Miss Birch, Miss C. Henderson, Miss M. Wells, Mr. G. Perrin, Mr. Dyson, Mr. H. Barnby, and Mr. Lawler; with Band and Chorus of nearly 800 performers. Conductors: Dr. Elvey and Mr. Surman.—Tickets, 3s., 5s., and 10s. 6d. Only Office of the Society, No. 9, Exeter-hall; where may be obtained the Exeter-hall Edition of The Creation, price 3s.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—Patron, H.R.H. Prince Albert.—The Lectures and Exhibitions as delivered before her most gracious Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert will be continued during the week, consisting of the TELEPHONIC CONCERT, Dissolving Views of Sindbad the Sailor, Duboscq's Illuminated Cascade; the Diorama illustrating the Voyage across the Atlantic, and the Cities in the United States; and, in addition, on Thursday Evening, the 17th, Dramatic Reading, by Mrs. Chatterley: "Much Ado About Nothing." Lectures on Songs and Song-Writers, by George Buckland, Esq. Dissolving Views of the War, &c. &c.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, REGENTS-PARK.—The collection of Living Animals includes a magnificent series of Lions, Lion Whelps, Clowns, Tigers, Hunting Dogs, and other Carnivora, Elephants, Rhinoceros, and a pair of Hippopotami; together with an immense number of Birds, Reptiles, Fish, and other Marine Animals. Admission, 1s.; on Mondays, 6d.

THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL—TO-MORROW WEEK, the 20th inst., the ANNIVERSARY SERMON for the Benefit of this Charity will be preached in the Chapel of the Hospital, by the Rev. Dr. GOULBURN, Head-Master of Rugby School, before his Royal Highness the Duke of CAMBRIDGE, the President, and the rest of the Governors and Guardians of the Corporation.—Divine service will begin at eleven o'clock. JOHN BROWNLOW, Secretary.

LONDON, TILBURY, and SOUTHPEND RAILWAY.—Communication to Southend and Sheerness Daily (Sunday included) by the 10.37 a.m. and 5.37 p.m. Down Trains, from the Fenchurch-street and Bishopsgate-street Stations, direct to Tilbury-pier, thence by the fast steam-packet "Jupiter" (belonging to the Star Company); returning from Sheerness at 7.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., and Southend at 4 a.m. and 5 p.m., in time for the 9.45 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Up Trains from Tilbury. Fares to Southend, first class, 3s.; second, 2s. 6d. Return Tickets, first class, 4s.; second, 3s. 6d. To Sheerness, first class, 2s. 6d.; second, 2s. Return Tickets, first class, 4s.; second, 3s. 6d. Up Train. Fenchurch-street Station, May 3rd, 1855.

INDIA, CHINA, AUSTRALIA, and CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—W. O. YOUNG will dispatch the following fast-sailing A Clipper SHIPS at the dates named as under:

Ships.	Tons.	Commanders.	Destination.	Docks.	To Sea.
Matilda Wattenbach	1200	J. C. Clare	Calcutta	London	May 12
Borderer	425	—	Calcutta	London	June 1
St. W. Worley	880	J. Simon	Calcutta	London	May 22
G. W. Bourne	721	W. H. Harding	Madras	St. Kath.	May 5
Planet	442	W. P. Buckham	Hong-Kong & Shanghai	London	May 27
Balmoral	337	H. Clarke	Shanghai	London	June 15
Kensington	900	Wm. King	Port Phillip	London	May 23
Granite City	807	W. Leak	Sydney	London	May 20
Aspasia	504	Richard Hill	Geelong	London	May 23
Roehampton	489	Robt. Bradshaw	Cape of Good Hope	London	May 25
Meteor	370	J. Brodie	Cape of Good Hope	London	June 15
Sea Queen	415	W. Rowe	Adelaide	St. Kath.	May 23

These ships have been selected specially for their high-class and fast-sailing qualities, and will be found well worth the attention of Shippers and Passengers.—W. O. YOUNG, 54, Cross-street, Manchester; 19, Dale-street, Liverpool; and Sun-court, Corahill, London.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1855.

As yet the British public has no quarrel with the aristocracy. The merchants of London who assembled last week, and took it upon themselves to represent the very general indignation which prevails throughout the middle and lower classes against the gross nepotism in all departments of the public service, which led to the too notorious mismanagement of our national affairs in the Crimea, were especially careful not to attack aristocracy as an institution, nor the aristocratic classes as a body. In adopting this course they acted with prudence, as well as with justice. There is no country in the world where there is so high-minded and so useful, and, if we may use a phrase apparently so contradictory, so democratic, an aristocracy as in Great Britain. Three-fourths of the Peerage are not of ancient lineage. The families who came in with the Conqueror are to be found, for the most part, among the untitled gentry; and our hereditary lawmakers are the descendants of men who sprang from the people in the comparatively recent days since Elizabeth and James I, or even since those of Queen Anne. They represent successful lawyers, merchants, soldiers, and sailors; and not the old feudal aristocracy which wrested Magna Charta from King John. As a body the aristocracy of England have in all ages proved themselves the friends of the people; and it is a fact, which cannot be too strongly impressed upon the public mind, that an enlightened aristocracy never can exist but with advantage to the classes below them. Despotism tolerates no aristocracy. Between the Emperor in all the despotic countries of Europe and the great bulk of the people there is no class but the class of functionaries, if we except the army—which is the main, if not the only, prop of arbitrary power. In Russia, in Austria, in Turkey, in France, there is no aristocracy except in name. If it exist at all, it has no power, no function, no collective existence. Despotism tolerates nothing between itself and the people. In constitutional States the case is different; and in England, should the unhappy day ever arise when the aristocracy shall be abolished as an institution, the knell of popular freedom will have sounded; a huge standing army will stand between Sovereign and people; and a military despotism will replace the republican monarchy under which it has been our privilege to prosper for so many generations. But if the aristocracy should be so unwise as to resist the demand for administrative reform, which has been forced upon the country by the mismanagement of the last twelve months, there is no knowing to what height the clamour may rise, and what Revolutions may spring out of opposed and withheld Reforms. To be connected with aristocracy will never in the eyes of sensible men be held as a disqualification for the public service; but sensible men would cease to be sensible if they looked upon aristocratic birth as the only qualification. It is upon this rock that the aristocracy has run its ship, and against which it threatens to split it up, unless it has tact and judgment enough to back out into deep, calm, waters. "La carrière ouverte aux talents" was the maxim, by acting upon which Napoleon I raised France to the highest point of glory and prosperity. In times of peace England might afford to let talent find its career in commerce and the arts—as it did; but in times of war a great nation must open up every department of the public service to the best men, irrespective of their birth, or it will flounder from difficulty into difficulty, and ultimately be

overwhelmed in disgrace and disaster. If a mediocre man of the mercantile classes is the competitor of a clever Duke, or a Lord of genius, by all means let the Duke or the Lord win the day; but if the mediocrity is on the side of the Duke—if the Lord be a simpleton, or a quack, and the man of business be the man of talent—let the man of business and of genius have the office to which he aspires, though his father may have swept a crossing, or though he may himself have commenced his career as a shoeblock or an errand-boy. It is by the employment of fitting instruments that great private enterprises are carried to successful completion; and it is by similar means, and by no other, that Great Britain will be enabled to face and conquer danger fifty or a hundredfold greater than any which have ever yet menaced her. The aristocracy will not, we believe, be unwise enough to resist a movement like this. On the contrary, we think they will be found in the rank of its supporters, and do justice to themselves as well as to their country, by lending their aid to overthrow the unsafe system by which a narrow section of their body has been compromising the whole, and bringing discredit and danger upon that finely-balanced constitutional system which not only tolerates but demands the existence of an aristocracy, as a necessary element in the general equilibrium.

But, while it is the duty of the aristocracy to look before them, and to act with wisdom in a crisis of no ordinary importance in the history of their country, it is no less the duty of the middle and lower classes to see that they enter into the work of Reform with clean hands and pure spirits. They should ask themselves if they are in all things blameless—if they have not abused the electoral privileges with which they have been entrusted—and if they have not sold themselves for money or money's worth to the aristocratic classes, against whom they are so ready to turn in the day of peril and perplexity. The shameless venality of our Parliamentary system may have done no great mischief in the days of peace. A very inefficient Government may be tolerated without the risk of fatal danger when we have no war upon our hands. In such a time the only boon the country has to ask of successive Governments is, not to govern, but to let it alone, and not interfere with the growth and development of its business. If at such a time a Government thinks itself bound to do some kind of work, to prove its existence, the greatest favour it can do the country is to devote its energies to the useful task of repealing the foolish over-legislation of past times. But in war the case is different. In war, hard, earnest, and wise work is absolutely essential. Hence the breakdown of 1854, at the first tug in the Crimea. But to say that the aristocracy are wholly to blame for the unhappy result is to conceal or shut our eyes against the truth. We do not seek to absolve the aristocracy from the charge of filling the minor—if not the major—departments of the public service with their relatives and dependents; but we would warn those who have commenced an agitation for the reform of this abuse that they will never succeed in their object unless they go to the root of the evil. How can we expect an entirely pure and disinterested aristocracy if we are a corrupt and venal people, and sell our votes, and job and barter for our private interest the trust which we hold for the advantage of the public?

The cheerful tone of recent communications from the Camp before Sebastopol, and the satisfactory information we receive as to the health of the soldiers, the strength of the works, and the abundance of provision and matériel, would justify a belief that a grand struggle will speedily be followed by a great success. But there are two sides to the picture of war; and throughout the whole campaign Englishmen have been unequal to the accomplishment of the feat of regarding both at once. The army has either been ruined, starved, and dispirited, and about to be driven into the sea; or, reinforced, and flushed with military ardour, was about, on the next day, or the day after at latest to plant its victorious banners on the Star Fort and in the town. "A generous public no cold medium knows." It is now time to try and hit that medium. The speedy rectification of false impressions, by means of the electric telegraph, renders it absurd that the over-sanguine or the over-fearful should continue to promulgate their incorrect or unworthy views of the position of the Allies.

Especially is it most desirable that there should be no mystification upon the subject of the war at the present crisis, when our anxieties are additionally complicated by the intimation that Austria is willing but afraid to make common cause with the Allies; and that France and England may ultimately be left to do the work without her assistance. The situation of affairs before Sebastopol thus becomes at once a question of double interest; and the details of the siege, monotonous and discouraging as they have long been, acquire a great significance. First, as regards the actual capture of the town and great fort, it may be said that the balance of probabilities is now in favour of the reduction of the place, even if the commanders adhere to the bit-by-bit system of destruction which saves blood at the expense of powder. The skilful and pertinacious efforts of the French have weakened and wasted the defences against which they have pushed their scientific attack. Here a bulwark has been crumbled up by their mines, there a battery has been crushed by their cannon. Nor has the cold steel been idle, and the Allies have suddenly wrested, by the strong hand, the murderous rifle-pits from the enemy, and a number of his mortars have been seized, and prisoners taken. He has sought, by a series of desperate onslaughts, to repair his loss, but the Allies have held their own, and he has retreated with thinned ranks and disgraced banners. We have approached somewhat nearer, but whether for a "deadly close," or only as an instalment of similar progress, is as yet unknown. Opposite statements, which may, however, be reconciled, are put forth, and the generals are described as waiting for reinforcements, in order to storm, and as about to renew bombardment, that the lives of the soldiers may not be needlessly risked. It seems probable that the assault will be given, but not until the reinforcement is complete. That the assault will be successful it would be an insult to the generals and to the soldiers to doubt: the former will not dare to make it unless military probabilities justify the act; and when did

the latter fail to reduce probabilities of victory into glorious certainties?

All that can be said, therefore, on the first part of the question is, that the capture of Sebastopol is a matter of somewhat more reasonable expectation than was the case a few weeks ago. But a much larger field of inquiry opens upon the view, when, in the presence of the grand interests which a changed position of affairs may evoke, the Allies are asked how stand the prospects of the war. From the Baltic to the Euxine ranges the material for reply. Suppose that Sebastopol has fallen, and that the Russian forces, retreating for consolidation, and not pursued by the Allied armies, temporarily exhausted with their great effort, unite, and attack—and are, as we may hope and believe they will be, utterly routed. Suppose the recruited Allies achieve the utmost success which the most sanguine civilian who daily takes Sebastopol between his first and second bottle can plan out; that the Russians are unable to maintain themselves in the Crimea; that its inhabitants, duly aroused to the advantages of Constitutional government, form guerrilla bands, and slaughter their old masters; and, finally, that not a Russian is seen in arms south of Perekop. Even with this splendid series of glories, this chain of triumph, beginning at Kalamita, and ending at Perekop, Europe will perhaps ask—"et après?" Deferring immediate answer, suppose that we can point to a simultaneous action, and show Conradi seething and writhing under the rain of fire from the fleet of Dundas. Then many people will hold that we have answered sufficiently, and that our natural allies—not yet implicated in the fight—are bound to arise and do battle. Others may think that this is a partial view of the case, and that Conradi and the Crimea may be ours, and yet that the bulwark against Russia, for which this war was undertaken, will not have risen appreciably from the soil of the continent—that it is but a barricade pour rire—"and if a fox goes, he shall break down their stone wall."

In short—and not dogmatically to compress a grand truth into few words—the European crisis is becoming more and more solemn, and those who now shut their ears to earthquake noises, and to the creaking and cracking of the pedestals of Continental thrones, will be bewildered into childish helplessness when the heaving volcano opens into flame. This is a time when a larger and a grander policy than British statesmen have hitherto dared should be initiated. The great European family has now an opportunity of joining its worthier members by a sacred bond, framed, not of diplomatists' tangles, but of two bright gold "strands"—the love of Freedom and the love of Truth.

THE COURT.

The Queen and Prince Albert honoured the Society of Painters in Water-Colours with a visit on Saturday last at their Gallery in Pall-mall. In the evening her Majesty and his Royal Highness, accompanied by a distinguished party, honoured the Royal Italian Opera with their presence.

On Monday her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, accompanied by her Serene Highness the Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, visited the Exhibition of the French School of Fine Arts in Pall-mall. In the evening the Queen and his Royal Highness, accompanied by the Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg and the Princess Adelaide of Hohenlohe, honoured the Olympic Theatre with their presence.

On Tuesday the Queen, attended by the Countess of Gainsborough and Major-General Buckley, visited her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, at Gloucester-house.

On Wednesday her Majesty and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg (who had arrived on a visit the previous evening), and the Princess Hohenlohe-Langenburg, visited the Exhibition of the Royal Botanic Society, in the Regent's-park. In the evening her Majesty gave her first State ball this season.

On Thursday the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the youthful members of the Royal family, honoured the Polytechnic Institution with a visit.

THE QUEEN'S STATE BALL.

The Queen, on Wednesday evening, gave a State ball, to which a party of between 1600 and 1700 were invited, and for which the whole of the State rooms of Buckingham Palace were appropriated, and brilliantly illuminated. The Royal family were ushered on their arrival to the White Drawing-room. All the other guests assembled in the Picture-gallery and the Promenade-gallery, which, for the first time, was opened for a State ball.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge and the Princess Mary arrived at a quarter before ten o'clock. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge came shortly afterwards. His Highness the Maharajah Duleep Singh was also present.

Her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert left the White Drawing-room shortly before ten o'clock, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge, the Princess Mary, the Duke of Cambridge, and the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, their Serene Highnesses the Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, and the Princess Adelaide and Prince Victor of Hohenlohe.

The Queen wore a dress of pink tulle, over pink silk, trimmed with five flounces of white blonde, and ornamented with bouquets of pink roses and white jessamine and diamonds. Her Majesty's head-dress was composed of diamonds and pink roses.

The Duchess of Cambridge wore a dress of grey glacé silk, covered with beautiful white Brussels lace to within a short distance of the bottom, which was trimmed with a triple border of white and grey marabout feathers, looped up with rosettes of silver grape. The body was trimmed with Brussels lace to correspond. The stomacher was covered with sapphires and diamonds; the necklace and the tiara were *en suite*. Her Royal Highness, in addition to the tiara, wore white and grey marabouts in her hair.

The Princess Mary of Cambridge wore a dress of blue tulle, over a rich silk glacé petticoat, trimmed with bunches of pink roses and tulle. The body was also trimmed with roses. The stomacher was ornamented with diamonds. The necklace pearls and diamonds. The Princess wore round her head a wreath of pink roses, having diamond stars intermixed.

The Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg wore a dress of white satin, trimmed with ribbon; the necklace diamonds. Her Serene Highness was formed of a garland of flowers and diamond ornaments.

The Princess Adelaide of Hohenlohe wore a pink satin dress, trimmed with pink tulle and flowers. Her Serene Highness wore a garland of flowers to correspond with the dress.

The Queen opened the ball with his Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, at ten o'clock.

The festivities were prolonged until two o'clock on Thursday morning.

The Earl of Clarendon, as Secretary of State for the Foreign Department, has issued cards for a full-dress banquet to the whole of the Foreign Ministers on Saturday next, to celebrate her Majesty's birthday.

THE PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION.—The nineteenth annual meeting of the Protestant Association was held on Wednesday, at Exeter-hall; Mr. Robert Baxter, of Doncaster, in the chair. The report referred to the present aspect of affairs as increasing the difficulties of moving against Maynooth; but the committee expressed their conviction that there should be no cessation of effort to procure the disendowment of the college, as the peculiar circumstances of the times would not lead the Church of Rome to relax in her exertions. The receipts up to the 31st of March were £708; the expenditure, £597; and the amount of liabilities about £700. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. R. Bickersteth, the Rev. G. Rogers, the Rev. C. Prest, Mr. J. Bateman, and other friends of the society.

The Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha arrived at Paris on Saturday last, and on the same day dined at the Tuilleries. The Emperor paid a visit to his Royal Highness on Sunday, at the hotel of the Prince de Chimay. On Tuesday his Royal Highness arrived in London.

It has been decided by the Spanish Government, in order to cover the deficiency,

NATIONAL SPORTS.

The ominous and feverish week which precedes the Derby offers but little inducement to the turfite to leave Tattersall's, except on Tuesday and Wednesday, when Bath, the beloved city of the late King Bladud, will open the doors of its grand stand. On Tuesday we shall have the Three-Year-Old Biennial, which was won last year by Oulston. This flat-sided son of Alice Hawthorn is reported to have been so completely beaten off in his trial with St. Hubert, Virago, and Little Harry, that his second victory here seems problematical, although Lady Tatton is the only name of note against him. The Spinner, Bessie, Polydore, and William III., are also engaged in it. The Two-Year-Old Biennial has forty-one entries, which includes Wandering Willie (who gave us a taste of his quality at Doncaster), Alfred, Brother to Orinoco, West Australian's sister Victoria, and the Danube, who is one of the most magnificent two-year-olds ever seen. Considerable interest will also attach to the great race of the day, the Somerseshire Stakes, although very little has as yet been done upon it at the Corner. Rataplan (9 st. 2 lb.), Nabob (8 st. 8 lbs.), Little Harry (8 st. 5 lb.), Typee (7 st. 12 lb.), Bracken (6 st. 10 lb.), and Goorkah (7 st. 3 lb.), are among the principal acceptors; and perhaps the latter, after an idle 1854 season, may be about to give us another taste of his three-year-old quality. Rataplan seems not unlikely to have a pretty clear stage for the Cup on Wednesday, as Kingstown will hardly go for it with Epsom so close at hand; and there is not a winning name among the thirty-three two-year-olds in the Weston Stakes. On Wednesday the Liverpool Hunt Club have some races at Hoylake, and the Tavistock sportsmen have also fixed their flat racing for that day, and intend to follow it up by three steeplechases on the Thursday. Harpenden has also a gathering on Friday, which will not lack attendance from the "great metropolis." Only five of the twenty-three weighted for the Handicap have been struck out, but their quality may be judged of from the fact that New Brighton, 9st. 2lb., heads the list. The thirteen two-year-olds are utterly unknown to fame, and include a Peep-o'-Day Boy filly from the Rothschild stable.

John Scott has come to Leatherhead with his three Derby horses, none of which, with the exception of De Clare, excite much notice. Bonnie Moon is quite out of favour, as there is no doubt that he showed the white feather in his races with Rifleman, Habena, and Coriolus. The latter animal had lost all his Epsom form when he ran for the Dee Stakes, in which he figured as badly as the notorious Lightfoot. Several outsiders are beginning to be quoted at 1000 to 15, one of which is a very fine Midshipman colt, Rotherham, who will be ridden by Job Marson. There are more unlikely things than that an almost unknown horse should defeat the very second-rate favourites of the present year. "The Field" is now at the head of the odds, and Habena was scratched for the Oaks at half-past three on Wednesday, in consequence of lameness. Scythian, the winner of the Chester Cup, is said to be one of the "Major's Remedy" triumphs. The owner won £11,000 on him, or just half the amount of his winnings in stakes alone during the last fifteen months. If Mortimer had won it is believed that Mr. Farr would have had a balance of £27,000 against the Ring. The officers whose absence has thrown such a gloom over racing are not forgetting their old love in the East. Steeplechases, pony races, and mule races are still all the rage in the "Camp before Sebastopol;" and, as the 10th Hussars were on their route from India thither, one of them accepted the challenge of a Pacha, and beat his favourite grey Arab mare quite easily in a match.

The wickets will be pitched at Lord's on Monday, when a one-day's match will be played between two elevens, with two professional bowlers on each side; and on Tuesday the Marylebone Club and ground will play the Undergraduates at Cambridge. It is worthy of notice that a five-shilling subscription is at present in progress to place a monument over the remains of William Lilywhite in the Highgate Cemetery.

The boat races at Oxford commence on Monday, and will be continued for several afternoons, ending May 25th. There are said to be fourteen crews at present in training, among which Balliol, Exeter, Christchurch, and Worcester have a favourable report. Yacht purchases have been very brisk of late, and salmon-fishers, especially on the Thurso, have been enjoying prime sport. No less than 550 clean salmon, weighing 5500 lbs., and 300 foul, were landed by six rods in the six weeks just elapsed; and we hear that the 35 lb. fish which graced the late Windsor Banquet to the Emperor of the French was the veritable monarch of these waters.

NEWMARKET SECOND SPRING MEETING.—TUESDAY.

Fifty Pounds.—Testy, 1. High Priest, 2.
Fifty Pounds.—Sable g., 1. Afghan, 2.
Sweepstakes of 10 sovs.—Merry Monk, 1. Cortez, 2.
Suffolk Stakes.—Tumbler, 1. Venison, 2.

WEDNESDAY.

Sweepstakes of 50 sovs.—Acrobat, 1. Kaffir, 2.
Handicap Plate.—Pharos, 1. Cheddar, 2.
Queen's Plate.—Bluebeard, 1. Commodore Charley, 2.
Sweepstakes.—Tyne walked over.

THURSDAY.

Jockey Club Plate.—Hermit walked over.
Sweepstakes for Two and Three Year Olds.—Ceres, 1. Lord Raglan, 2.
10 Handicap Plate.—Fact, 1. Pastrycook, 2.
Sweepstakes for Two-Year-Olds.—Alastor, 1. Iago colt, 2.

SHREWSBURY RACES.—THURSDAY.

Salopian Stakes.—See Clear, 1. Betty Baylock f., 2.
Herbert Stakes.—Blossom 1. Romeo, 2.
Cleveland Handicap.—Shoreham, 1. Lurley, 2.
Longner Stakes.—Tilley, 1. Swallow, 2.
Queen's Plate.—Rataplan, 1. Chicken, 2.
Stanley Handicap.—Eva, 1. Timotheus, 2.
Members' Plate.—Cropper, 1. Vingt-un, 2.

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

Owing to the resignation of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, there have been numerous sales of Stock this week, partly on French account. The supply in the hands of the jobbers has, consequently, increased, and the Consol-market has assumed a dull appearance. There has not, however, been any serious decline in prices—the fall, since the opening on Monday, not being more than about one-quarter per cent. In the present state of affairs, the *Bears* have, as a matter of course, taken advantage of every rumour afloat; but at present, though the assistance of Austria to curb the pretensions of Russia is still held in suspense, we see nothing indicative of an unsound price for most national securities. There has been a failure announced in the Stock Exchange for £300,000 Consols and Omnia.

The Consol-market on Monday was heavy. The Three per Cents opened at 89½, but gave way to 88½, finally closing at 88½ to 5. The Three per Cents Reduced were 88 to 87½; the New Three per Cents, 88½; and Long Annuities, 1860, 35½-16; those for 30 years being 16½. Omnia was done at 1½ prem.; Exchequer Bonds, 99½. There was a further fall in prices on Tuesday. The Three per Cents Reduced were 87½ to 87½; the Three per Cent Consols, 88½ to 88½; the New Three per Cents, 88½ to 88½; Consols for Account, 88½; Bank Stock, 210½ to 211; India Stock, 230; Long Annuities, 1860, 16½-16; Omnia, 1½ to 2 prem.; Exchequer Bills, 5s. to 10s. prem.; Exchequer Bonds, 99½. On Wednesday, very few sales or purchases took place. The Three per Cents Reduced were 87½ to 87½; the New Three per Cents, 88½ to 88½; Consols for Account, 88½; Bank Stock, 210½ to 211; India Stock, 230; Long Annuities, 1860, 16½-16; Omnia, 1½ to 2 prem.; Exchequer Bills, 5s. to 10s. prem. Omnia, 1½ prem. On Wednesday, very few sales or purchases took place. The Three per Cents Reduced were 87½ to 87½; the New Three per Cents, 88½ to 88½; Consols for Account, 88½; Bank Stock, 210½ to 211; India Stock, 230; Long Annuities, 1860, 16½-16; Omnia, 1½ to 2 prem.; Exchequer Bills, 5s. to 10s. prem. Omnia, 1½ prem.

There have been several large shipments of silver to the East, and about £80,000 dollars have sold for that destination, at 61d. per ounce. This quotation shows an advance of 1d. per ounce upon the previous sale. The imports of bullion have been on a liberal scale, viz., £100,000 from New York, and rather over £300,000 from Australia. The exchange being favourable, scarcely any shipments have been made to the Continent.

In the Discount Market money is plentiful and cheap, first-class bills being readily discounted in Lombard-street at 3½ per cent.

Most Foreign Bonds have been dull. In prices very little change has taken place:—Brazilian Five per Cents have marked 98½; Ditto New, 101; Danish Three per Cents, 81; Grenada Bonds, 17; Portuguese Four per Cents, 42; Russian Five per Cents, 98½; Russian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 88; Sardinian Five per Cents, 86; Turkish Six per Cents, 74½; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 63½; Dutch Four per Cents, 92½; Mexican Three per Cents, 21; Venezuelan Three-and-a-Half per Cents, 28; and Belgian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 90½ ex div.

Joint Stock Bank Shares have ruled steady, at full prices:—Australasia have marked 81; Commercial of London, 80½; English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered, 16½; London Chartered of Australia, 20½; London Joint Stock, 27½; London and Westminster, 43; New South Wales, 34; South Australia, 41. There has been a full average business doing in Miscellaneous Securities, as follows:—Australian Agricultural, 20; Canada Six per Cents, 10½; Crystal Palace, 3½; General Screw Steam Shipping Company, 14½; Mexican and South American, 6½; Peninsula and Oriental Steam, New, 11½; Royal

Mail Steam, 69½; Scottish Australian Investment, 1½; South Australian Land, 36½; City Navigation Bonds, 82; Van Dieman's Land, 13; Victoria Docks, New, 9. In Canal Shares very little has been passing, at previous rates:—Birmingham, 92; Coventry, 20½; Derby, 84; Leicester, 59; Loughborough, 57½; Neath, 150; Peak Forest, 86; Stourbridge, 285; Stafford and Worcester, 425; Warwick and Birmingham, 20. Water-Works Shares have realised the following rates:—East London, 105½; Grand Junction, 68½; Ken, 78½; Southwark and Vauxhall, 89½; West Middlesex, 91; Ditto, New, 16½; Gaslight and Coke Companies' Securities have met a dull market:—Brighton, 15½; City of London, 90; Equitable, 33; Imperial, 108; Ditto, New, 20; Ratcliffe, 70; Surrey Consumers, 11; Westminster Chartered, 39½. Scarcely any transactions have taken place in Insurance Companies' Shares:—Globe has marked 106; Guardian, 55½; Imperial Fine, 321; Ditto, Life, 18½; Law Fire, 4½; Ditto, Life, 56½; Pelican, 47; Phoenix, 185; Rock Life, 7½; Royal Exchange, 232; United Kingdom, 43; Hungerford Bridge Shares have changed hands at 12; Waterloo, 3½; Ditto, Old Assurance of £8, 31½; Vauxhall, 21½.

Railway Shares have sold heavily, and prices almost generally have tended downwards. The following are the official closing quotations on Thursday:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Edinburgh and Glasgow, 55; Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, 17½; Great Northern, 99½; Ditto A Stock, 74½; Ditto B Stock, 124; Great Western, 64½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 78½; London and Brighton, 98½; London and North-Western, 98½; London and South-Western, 80½; Midland, 69½; North-Eastern—Herwick, 71½; Ditto, Leeds, 12½; Ditto, York, 4½; North Staffordshire, 12½; Scottish Central, 93½; South-Eastern, 59½; South Wales, 28.

LINES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS.—East Lincolnshire, 133½; Manchester, Buxton, and Matlock, 2½; Wiltshire and Somerset, 89½.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—Caledonian, 97; Great Northern Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 101½; Great Western Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 98½; Ditto, Birmingham Stock, 73½; North British, 98½.

FOREIGN.—Antwerp and Rotterdam, 7½; Eastern of France, 35½; Ditto, New, 17½; East Indian, 24½; Ditto, Extension, 12½; Grand Trunk of Canada, A Issue, 6½; Great Indian Peninsula, 5½; Great Luxembourg, 2; Great Western of Canada, 20½; Hamilton and Toronto, 21½; Western of France, 21½; Zealand, 18½.

Mining Shares have been dull:—Aqua Fria have marked ½; Imperial Brazilian, 2½; English and Australian Copper, 1½; United Mexican, 6½.

THE MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE, May 7.—We had only a moderate supply of English wheat on sale in today's market. The demand, however, for all kinds was in a most inactive state, and the new rates reflected were at a decline in the prices quoted on Monday last of from 1s. to 2s. per quarter. Foreign wheat market of barley and oats, and in some instances, inferior cereals were the term in favour of buyers. In bar a few sales took place, on former terms, and market was much neglected. There was a good demand for oats, and prices were 6d. in per quarter higher than on this day so might. Beans ruled active, and were quoted 1s. per quarter dearer.

In pens and shear very little was doing, on former terms.

May 9.—A very moderate business was transacted to-day, at Monday's prices.

English.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, 70s. to 75s.; ditto, white, 70s. to 75s.; Norfolk and Suffolk red, 70s. to 75s.; ditto, white, 70s. to 75s.; rye, 40s. to 42s.; grinding barley, 29s. to 31s.; ditilling ditto, 29s. to 32s.; malting ditto, 30s. to 35s.; Lincoln and Norfolk 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d.; brown ditto, 6s. to 6s.; Kingston and Ware, 6s. to 6s.; Cheviot, 7s. to 7s.; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire oats, 26s. to 28s.; potato ditto, 26s. to 30s.; Yealham and Cork black, 25s. to 26s.; ditto, white, 26s. to 30s.; tick beans, 37s. to 43s.; grey peas, 35s. to 35s.; maple, 30s. to 41s.; white, 40s. to 41s.; boilers, 40s. to 46s. per quarter. Town-made flour, 6s. to 70s.; Suffolk, 52s. to 55s.; Stockton and Yorkshire, 6s. to 55s. per barrel. American flour, 38s. to 46s. per barrel.

Seeds.—Linseed has sold steadily, at full prices. Most other seeds, including cakes, com, etc., full quotations.

Lined English, sowings, 68s. to 70s.; Baltic, crushing, 6s. to 6s.; Mediterranean and Oceania, 6s. to 6s.; hempseed, 48s. to 56s. per quarter. Coriander, 20s. to 24s. per cwt. Brown Mustard seed, 1s. to 1s. 6d.; white ditto, 1s. to 1s. 6d.; Tares, 8s. to 10s. per bushel. English rapeseed, 43s. to 42s. per last of ten quarters. Lined cakes, English, 12s. to 12s. 5d.; ditto, foreign, 11s. 6d. to 12s. 12s.; rape cakes, 16s. 10s. to 16s. 12s. per ton. Cansery, 46s. to 50s. per quarter. Red clover, English, 3s. to 6s.; white ditto, 6s. to 7s. per cwt.

Imperial Weekly Averages.—Wheat, 69s. 3d.; barley, 31s. 3d.; oats, 26s. 9d.; rye, 38s. 6d.; beans, 41s. 7d.; peas, 38s. 7d.

The Six Weeks' Averages.—Wheat, 68s. 7d.; barley, 31s. 1d.; oats, 25s. 8d.; rye, 39s. 9d.; beans, 41s. 2d.; peas, 38s. 5d.

English Grain Sold Last Week.—Wheat, 102,062; barley, 29,868; oats, 17,203; rye, 204; beans, 4,650; peas, 512 quarters.

Bread.—The prices of wheats, bread in the metropolis are from 9d. to 10d. of household ditto, 8d. to 9d. per lb. loaf.

Tea.—Our market has become extremely inactive, and prices have a downward tendency. Common sound congo is now selling at 8d. per lb.

Sugar.—All raw sugar has changed hands steadily, at fully last week's currency. Barbadoes has risen 2d. 6d. to 4d. 6d.; crystallized Demerara, 3d. to 4s. 6d.; brown Mauritius, 2s. to 2s. 6d.; grainy, 3s. to 4s. 6d.; Benares, 3d. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; grainy, 4s. 6d. to 47s. 6d.; and about 20,600 lbs. calved Manilla, about 3s. 6d. per cwt. Refined goods are firm. Brown lumps, 46s. 6d.; and grocery, 47s. to 52s. per cwt.

Coffee.—Most kinds have sold slowly, at about stationary prices. Good ordinary native has realized 47s. per cwt.

Rice.—There is less activity in the demand; yet the late improvement in the quotations is supported.

Provisions.—New Irish butter is steady, and support previous rates; low and middling qualities are a dull sale. Foreign butter is tolerably firm; but the business doing in English is far from extensive. Fine weekly Dorset, 10s. to 10s. per cwt. There is a moderate inquiry for bacon, hams, and lard, at full quotations. In other kinds of provisions very little is doing.

Tallow.—Our market is somewhat firmer, and P.Y.C. on the spot has realized 53s. to 53s. 6d. per cwt. The stock is now 41,000 sacks.

Oils.—Linseed oil is selling at 20s. per cwt. Most other oils support last week's currency.

Turnip.—The market for turnips is at 2s. to 2d. to 2s. 4d. per cwt. Peaseard, 2s. to 2s. 2d. for East India. Brandy is selling at full quotations. Corn spirits are 10s. 6d. cash.

Coals.—Bates' West Hartley, 17s.; Tannfield Moor, 16s.; Wylam, 15s. 3d.; Bell, 17s. 6d.; Belmont, 17s. 6d.; Caradoc, 18s.; Hartlepole, 18s. 6d.; Kelloe, 18s. 6d.; Hengh Hall, 18s. per ton.

Hay and Straw.—Meadow hay, 12½ lbs. to 15 lbs.; clover ditto, £3 to £6 0s.; and straw, £1 6s. to £1 12s. per load.

Hops.—The supply of hops is very limited, and the demand is steady, at full prices.

Wool.—The public sales of colonial wool are progressing steadily, and prices are freely supported. In the private market very little is doing.

Potatoes.—The demand for potatoes is by no means active, yet prices are on the advance. York Regents, 12s. to 17s.; Scotch ditto, 11s. to 13s.; other kinds, 9s. to 12s. per ton.

Smithfield.—The general demand has ruled less active, as follows:—

Beef, from 3s. 0d. to 4s. 6d.; mutton, 3s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.; lamb, 3s. 6d. to 6s. 6d.; veal, 3s. 10d. to 5s. 0d.; pork, 3s. 0d. to 4s. 4d. per 8 lbs. to sink the offals.

Newgate and Leadenhall.—Most kinds of meat have moved off slowly, at drooping prices:—

Beef, from 3s. 0d. to 4s. 2d.; mutton, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 4d.; lamb, 3s. 8d. to 6s. 2d.; veal, 3s. 8d. to 4s. 8d.; pork, 3s. 0d. to 4s. 4d. per 8 lbs. by the carcass.

ROBERT HERBERT.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, MAY 4.

WAR-OFFICE, MAY 4TH.

6th Dragoons: Quartermaster J. Marshall to be Paymaster.

17th Light Dragoons: G. Cleghorn to be Cornet.

Coldstream Guards: R. H. Thursley to be Ensign and Lieutenant.



WRECK OF "THE CROESUS" TRANSPORT SHIP, IN FRUTTUOSO BAY.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

RETURN OF THE "ENTERPRISE."

The *Enterprise*, Captain Collinson, arrived at Spithead on Sunday evening, after sunset, from the Arctic Regions, China, and Cape of Good Hope. She sailed from the latter station, Table Bay, on the 1st Feb., and St. Helena on the 2nd March. The only news the *Enterprise* has brought confirms the reports which have preceded her arrival, as to the hostile relations between her captain and his officers. It is quite true that all the executive officers of the ship (Commander Phayre, Lieutenants Jago and Parks, and Mr. Skead, the Master) are under arrest, and have been so for terms varying from three years, and Mr. Parks over two years and a half. All the chief executive officers being thus debarred from doing duty, an acting mate (Mr. Wise, of the *Comus* sloop) was sent to assist in navigating the ship home by Rear-Admiral Sir James Stirling, the Commander-in-Chief of the China squadron, who refused to hold a series of courts-martial on that station. The *Enterprise* was commissioned

THE CIVIL HOSPITAL, SMYRNA.

We have been favoured with the accompanying View of the Civil Hospital, Smyrna, from a sketch by Mr. Edward Atkinson. "For the accompanying details we are indebted to Dr. Septimus Gibbon, Assistant Physician to the London Hospital, and Physician to the Smyrna Hospital.

The large building is situated at the southern extremity of the town of Smyrna, and is entirely detached from all other structures. On the southern side of it is a large open field admirably suited for the erection of a wooden hospital. The Hospital, as shown in the accompanying Sketch, is close by the sea, and consequently well situated for the disembarking of sick and wounded soldiers. The fabric is newly built, well ventilated, and well adapted for an hospital. Few of the wards contain more than twenty beds; but there are open corridors which run through the whole building, and all these corridors are at present fitted with beds. It is estimated that the building will accommodate about 600 patients. At the time we write there are 190 patients in it. Hitherto the Hospital has been partly under the military system, but the management is now essentially civil. The Hospital physicians and surgeons, who have come out from the London Hospital, are unanimous in expressing their disapproval of the military provisions for attending the sick and wounded. Their excellent and able superintendent, Dr. Meyer, arrived last week, and has been indefatigable in completing arrangements for introducing the civil system.

A letter from Smyrna, of April 21, gives the following account of the sanitary condition of the place:—

Fever, you will be glad to learn, is on the decrease; fresh cases occur at intervals, it is true, but deaths are now few and far between. It is not a Mediterranean form that has raged amongst us; but evidently the fever imported from a northern clime; and very similar, if not the same, as the typhus in Ireland following upon scarcity, famine, and want of cleanliness. It has certainly been highly contagious; but the great improvement in ventilation and closing of the ground-floor for patients, better food, and closer watching, have reduced the number of actual cases to below the number an hospital of such a size might fairly expect. The fever had not mitigated its rapacity, however, until it had attacked several of our nurses, and clutched hold of

one, Miss Drusilla Smyth, beyond all powers of rescue. She died on Thursday morning, at six a.m., and was buried in the Protestant burial-ground at six in the evening. Though burials had been frequent, this one cast a heavy gloom over all. It was the first victim to untiring self-devotion among the delicate fragile beings who had come with us to show how much stronger a spirit of self-sacrifice is than the stoutest muscular frame. The whole of the military at disposal preceded her remains through the tortuous streets and bazaars of Smyrna, and her companions in love and labour, the lady-nurses, followed her to her last resting-place. The Colonel Commandant and the whole of the medical staff, purveyor's staff, and as many ward-masters and orderlies as could be spared, attended in a long and mournful train, two and two. One thing throughout this sad and melancholy duty made a great impression upon me, namely, the death-silence of all the streets as we passed through them. The Turks and Greeks all showed the greatest respect to the ceremony of sorrow, even of those they looked upon with some disgust and suspicion. Miss Aphis, one of the nurses, has had a very severe attack, but is pronounced to be out of danger. For a long time we were very nervous about her. But now everything is so much improved, and our prospects are so cheerful, that we are almost forgetting the past. Our real difficulty is to find a wholesome residence for the lady-nurses. They cannot be in the hospital, and Turkish houses are so filthily drained that they are almost all unhealthy.

After all the pains and expense incurred in fitting up this Hospital, we are now told that it is to be given up. When Smyrna was first spoken about as the site of an hospital for convalescent soldiers, strong objections were made on the ground of its unhealthiness, and its distance from the Crimea; but these were all overruled by Government. It appears that the medical authorities in the East have already come to the conclusion that the Hospital is really too far from the seat of war, and that part of the staff is to leave Smyrna for the wooden barracks about to be erected on the Bosphorus. It has frequently been suggested that the best arrangement would be to have sufficient accommodation at Balaclava and in the vicinity of Constantinople for all those sick and wounded who are likely to be soon restored to health, and for those who are too ill to stand a long voyage, while those who have been disabled so as to be unfit for service should be brought home at once. This we believe is the plan pursued by the French, and we cannot do better than follow their example.



CAPTAIN COLLINSON, COMMANDER OF "THE ENTERPRISE" ARCTIC DISCOVERY SHIP.

by Captain Collinson to go in search of Sir John Franklin on the 20th December, 1849, in concert with the *Investigator*, Captain M'Clure, but, we regret to add, has achieved nothing in the way of discovery of the lost expedition.

Captain Collinson, C.B., of whom we engrave a Portrait, entered the Navy in 1822. He passed his examination in 1831, obtained his first commission in March, 1835, and in the following September was appointed to the *Sulphur* surveying-vessel. During operations against Canton, in March, 1841, he was officially praised for his very skilful and highly meritorious exertions in piloting the *Modeste*. In October of the same year he assisted at the recapture of Chusan, and the storming of the fortified heights and citadel of Chinghae. In June, 1841, he was promoted to the rank of Commander, and in February, 1842, was appointed to the *Plover* surveying-vessel. In the latter part of that year he was promoted for services to Post rank, and nominated a C.B. the day following.



THE BRITISH HOSPITAL, AT SMYRNA.